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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 2 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), I have the honour to refer to the third Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in Belén, Costa Rica, on 28 and 29 January 2015.

In this regard, I would appreciate it if you could circulate as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 123, the present letter and its annexes, namely:

(a) The political declaration of Belén (annex I);

(b) The action plan 2015 (annex II);

(c) The 26 special declarations adopted by the Community (annex III).

(*Signed*) Xavier **Lasso Mendoza**
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 2 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Belén, Costa Rica, on 28 and 29 January 2015

Political declaration of Belén

A. Building together a sustainable development with equity

The Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), conscious of our responsibility towards the development of Latin American and Caribbean peoples and societies whom we represent, as well as with the international community to which we belong, recognize in CELAC the competent dialogue and political coordination mechanism for the 33 countries of the Community to strengthen the unity in diversity, integration, cooperation, solidarity and the development of national and regional capacities so that it allows us to move towards greater prosperity and a well-being of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples.

The eradication of poverty and sustainable development with social, economic and financial inclusion are challenges that require global, regional and national efforts, as well as that of our local governments and our communities. The irreversible eradication of poverty is a prerequisite for sustainable development and to ensure the equality of opportunities of progress for the societies. Sustainable development cannot be attained without the inclusion of groups in situations of vulnerability, such as, indigenous and other tribal populations, afro-descendants, women, elderly people, persons with disabilities, migrants, children and adolescents. Equity, social and financial inclusion and access to fair credit are central to ensure overall access to justice, citizen participation, well-being and a dignified life for all. The promotion of culture of peace and of non-violence are also fundamental elements for the attainment of sustainable development.

In this context, gathered in Costa Rica in this third Summit, on 28 and 29 January 2015, under the motto "Building together", we reiterate our commitment to the principles of international law, peace, sustainable development, democracy and respect for human rights, the eradication of hunger and poverty and the fight against inequality, and against all forms of racism, reaffirming our vision of Latin America and the Caribbean as a region of opportunities for all, where social, economic and financial inclusion, tolerance and respect is to prevail. We reaffirm likewise our commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation as cross-cutting measures for the attainment of sustainable development.

We therefore agree to:

1. Reaffirm our strong determination to eradicate extreme poverty, hunger and inequality in the region as an indispensable precondition to reach sustainable development, through the articulation of economic, social, and environmental policies with the integral and fair citizen participation.

2. Address the fight against poverty in an integral and multidimensional way, by directly influencing on its causes, through, inter alia, the promotion of national and regional social and financial inclusion policies directed especially to groups in situations of vulnerability in a way that promotes social justice, social cohesion and sustainable development, preserving the respective spaces needed for their advancement.

3. Guarantee full respect to democracy, the rule of law, as well as to all human rights including right to development and right to peace, in a model of sustainable development that places the person at the center of our policies. Thus, recognize the importance to promote plural, widespread and diverse full citizen participation.

4. Foster the equality and gender equity implementing actions for its incorporation as central and transversal axes of public policies and of the actions of the States, especially directed to promote the empowerment of women, the effective equality, from diversity and taking into consideration all stages of life; in particular, the access to a decent job, quality education, information technologies and communication, health, a life free of violence and discrimination participate in an equal manner to decision making positions in all the powers of the State in its different levels, including, regional and local governments, as determinant factors to consolidate democracy and advance towards a more participative, inclusive and respect for women's rights development model; taking into consideration the joint work with civil society, the social organizations, and the private sector and their budgetary allocation for the development and implementation of public policies for equality.

5. Promote, in order to eradicate hunger, poverty and inequality, the elaboration and effective implementation of regional and national development programmes, with a vision of mid and long term, transparency and accountability mechanisms, adequate use of public resources available at the national and international level.

6. Strengthen also, mechanisms to prevent, detect, sanction and combat corruption; improve the efficiency and transparency in public management, promote the accountability at all levels, as well as citizen participation in the supervision of public affairs and the access to information, according to respective national legislations international agreements subscribed by the States.

7. Promote the effective implementation of the international instruments of prevention and fight against corruption in our countries, in particular the Convention of the United Nations against Corruption, and promote the transparency of public policies, strengthening access to information, citizen participation, social control, effective and efficient public management.

8. Favour the creation of opportunities of dignified and productive employment and decent work, in the framework of growth with social inclusion, as the necessary conditions to overcome poverty and diminish inequality in the region.

9. Reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the right to education. Recognize the knowledge gaps and agree to the need of effectively reducing them. In this regard, we commit ourselves to strengthen the regional cooperation to achieve the universal access to public, free and quality education, and thus, promote sustainable development, poverty eradication, gender equality,

empowerment of women and human development, to ensure access and participation of women and men, particularly young people, ensuring also equal access to education for people with special educational needs (associated or not with a disability), migrants, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, continuously incorporating scientific and technological progress, promoting social mobility and improve opportunities employment throughout life, productivity and capacity to promote development and competitiveness based on knowledge and added value, among others.

10. Actively promote policies on higher university education, in all academic modalities, that allow equitable access to a quality higher education. For this purpose we will implement, cooperation and articulation strategies of courses and programmes accredited in CELAC member countries, and existing regional mechanisms, as well as policies and national and regional instruments aimed at strengthening human talent in the region, in the context of multiculturalism and multilingualism. This with the support of information and communication technologies, the exchange of good practices and cooperation mechanisms.

11. Highlight our commitment to a Latin American and Caribbean region free from illiteracy, as well as a quality education at all levels and reiterate that education is a fundamental right that contributes to sustainable development processes in the Community. Commit our efforts to fully implement the right to free, universal and quality education, and so progress in reducing knowledge gaps that persist in the regions.

12. Reaffirm our commitment to build opportunities through sport, to promote social inclusion, the fight against poverty and inequality in our region, considering that sport is a fundamental pillar and a tool for social integration, which contributes to the improvement of quality of life, reduction of poverty and crime prevention.

13. Highlight the importance of information and communication technologies, including the Internet, as well as innovation, as tools to encourage peace, promote well-being, human development, knowledge, social inclusion and economic growth, highlighting their contribution to the improvement of coverage and quality of social services. Likewise, reaffirm the peaceful use of information and communication technologies in a way compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and never with the objective of subverting societies nor create situations with the potential of fostering conflict amongst States. Guarantee stability and security of Internet and ensure the legitimacy that requires its governance, based on full participation of all stakeholders, both from developed and developing countries, in the exercise of their respective roles and responsibilities.

14. Promote growth, progress, social, economic and financial inclusion and sustainable development in our States through productive development, technology transfer, all cooperation modalities, including South-South and intraregional cooperation. Strengthen the commitments in the field of technology transfer, access to information and intellectual property rights. Likewise, promote cooperation projects that include exchange of scientists and qualified personnel in the region, which will favour the transfer of knowledge, the scientific and intellectual creation and innovation and well-being of our countries.

15. Strengthen, through measurable criteria, the compromises convened in the Plan of Application of the Decisions of Johannesburg, in particular the calling to promote, facilitate and finance, when appropriate, the access to environmentally sound technologies and corresponding expertise, as well as its development, in favourable conditions, especially through the exchange of scientists among Universities, Institutes of Higher Education and Institutes of Technological Development of the region, which will favour the transfer of knowledge, the scientific and intellectual creation and innovation.

16. Focus the work towards the social, economic and financial inclusion and cooperation amongst CELAC member States, centered on human talent, with an awareness of the need to develop national inclusive development policies that support this objective, including small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship, enterprises of social production cooperatives.

17. Recognize the direct contribution of family farming to food security and sustainable development in achieving a region free of poverty and hunger, and welcome the declaration of the first CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming, held in Brasilia on 11 November 2014.

18. Approve CELAC's Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger 2025, and thank the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) for their support in its formulation.

19. Take note of the decision of Latin American and Caribbean Group members represented in Rome, to endorse the re-election of Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva to the post of Director General of FAO, in the Conference of the organization that will be held in June 2015.

20. Recognize the role of culture and the respect the diversity of cultural expression as important aspects of sustainable development, given its impact on economic growth, on social development and the protection of the environment and recognizing as substantial elements of process towards the attainment of more equitable and better prepared societies to tackle current challenges.

21. Support the agreements reached in the second CELAC Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture, on 21 August 2014, in Caracas, especially the implementation of a CELAC Action Plan on Culture, which seeks to undertake actions aimed at achieving social objectives, as well as to find ways of communication and access among member countries to strengthen Latin American and Caribbean unity to advance in the way of cultural integration in the region, preserve cultural heritage and promote culture in favour of productive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

22. Recognize the need to strengthen the link between international migration and development, the contribution of migrants to development of the destination country, placing at the center of this matter the migrant and its family and not its migratory status, understanding that it is the duty of all the States — of origin, transit and destination — to guarantee full respect of all human rights of migrants, irrespective of their migration status, including migration of children and adolescents, accompanied and non-accompanied, and their higher interest to avoid exacerbating their vulnerabilities. We deem necessary to consider this relationship

between migration and development, looking to the adoption and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

23. Recognize the need to develop actions aimed at exchanging experiences on safe migratory processes of our fellow citizens, both in the countries where they migrate to, as well as their return to their country of origin in our region.

24. Welcome the commitments assumed by the CELAC member countries, reflected in the third CELAC Report of the Meeting on Migration, held in Azogues, Ecuador on 22 and 23 October 2014, and ratify resolution 69/187 on migrant children and adolescents of the United Nations General Assembly.

25. Emphasize the importance of the right of access to information and participation of the society in the promotion of sustainable development, according to the national capacities, realities, plans and legislations, conventions and applicable international standards. In this sense, highlight the progress of the process on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992, which shall be consistent with national policies and with full respect to national sovereignty. This process shall be foreseen within a balanced context of the evolution of the other principles of the Rio Declaration of 1992.

26. We recognize the different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve sustainable development, and the importance of development in harmony with nature, the relevance of strengthening cooperation, articulation, harmonization and complementarity of national public policies on environmental issues, and the need to modify unsustainable prevailing consumption patterns.

27. We recognize the need of changing patterns of production and consumption in the region, urging to manage sustainable processes of production and consumption, which will contribute to the eradication of poverty, the mitigation of the effects of desertification and drought, climate change, biodiversity conservation and other regional priorities that will impact globally.

28. Promote and participate in the environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous and non-hazardous waste, ensuring synergies with existing processes and initiatives within the countries of the region.

29. Welcome the organization of the first Meeting of Regional and Subregional Mechanisms for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, coordinated by the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement and held at the headquarters of the Latin American Economic System, in Caracas, on 26 and 27 June 2014, thus fulfilling with the mandate set out in the CELAC Plan of Action of Havana. Likewise, we welcome the technical meeting held in Caracas on 26 and 27 November 2014, in which the implementation of the Action Plan on Social Public Policies, adopted in Caracas on 23 July 2013 was discussed, as a step towards the second CELAC Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development and Hunger and Poverty Eradication.

B. We participate in the construction of the priorities of the global development agenda

CELAC is and develops itself in a heterogeneous region. Even though the region has accomplished important progress in reducing poverty, we still face

challenges. The task is even greater with respect to inequality, where progress has been slower and the difficulties greater. The definition of the sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda inspires us to build progress opportunities for all, through clear and specific objectives, while respecting the different national realities, capacities and development level. As a region it is essential to influence the global debate promoting our regional position and building consensus among governments, always attentive to the contributions of other actors in the development process, including the United Nations system, international financial organizations, civil society, academia, international organizations, public, mixed, social enterprises, cooperatives and the business sector, among others.

For these reasons, we commit to:

30. Continue consolidating the discussion spaces on issues of international priority, essential for building consensus and continue strengthening CELAC and its projection on the global agenda, so that it contributes to the promotion of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

31. In this context, work to strengthen the consultation and coordination among member States in the United Nations, not only in the instances where they are regularly held but also at other multilateral forums, where it is convenient and possible, to reach common positions. Likewise, highlight the importance of fostering consensus of CELAC member States, when possible, in the various multilateral processes relevant to the development of our countries. In order to deepen the coordination, we will begin a discussion process that allow us make decision in the future.

32. Reaffirm the special declarations on the post-2015 development agenda of the second and third CELAC Summits and ratify the commitment of its members to continue participating actively and constructively in the next phases of the process of elaboration of the Agenda. Ensure that the definition of the Development Agenda is conducted under a universal, comprehensive, open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiation process.

33. Join efforts for the third International Conference on Financing for Development to establish a concrete plan of action to address the systemic and structural issues that affect the availability of resources to finance sustainable development in developing countries.

34. Reaffirm that in order to appropriately approach the objectives of eradication of hunger, poverty and inequality, an active participation and planning of the States is required, through, among others, guaranteeing that the International and Regional Financial Architecture be at the service of human beings and allow them to best respond to sustainable development objectives.

35. Express our conviction regarding the importance of the topics related to the strengthening of the regional financial architecture and call upon to continue the work in a coordinated manner in the agreements and commitments acquired in cooperation and monetary and financial integration. In this sense, we ratify the support to topics approached in the Caracas and Havana Plans of Action and the resolutions adopted at the Quito Declaration of the second CELAC Meeting of Ministers of Finance.

36. Exhort the institutions of national development and invite the central banks of Latin America and the Caribbean, to analyse the option of measures of

exchange of experiences and cooperation at the CELAC level, with the perspective of configuring a regional net of financing for development that allows fostering the productive and commercial activity of the member States.

37. Reaffirm our solidarity and support towards the Republic of Argentina in searching an agreement in relation to the sovereign debt restructuring that do not compromise its development policies and the well-being of its Peoples.

38. Express our intention to reach consensus through all international multilateral mechanisms, with the participation, when appropriate, of all pertinent institutions in the restructuring of sovereign debt. In particular, we highlight, among others, the negotiation process opened in resolution 68/304 of the United Nations General Assembly.

39. Confer the required support of the condition of a landlocked country, in the implementation of the effective measures destined to overcome the vulnerabilities and problems derived from this situation, facilitating freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transportation, conforming the rules applicable to international law, the international conventions and the current bilateral agreements.

40. Salute the successful development of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna in November 2014. Reaffirm the commitment to applying the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 to approach this needs in an integral way and the specific challenges in development of the landlocked developing countries derived from the lack of a coastal shore, the distance, and geographic limitations.

41. Reaffirm the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and celebrate its 20 years (Beijing+20), conscious of the importance of empowering women at all stages of their lives, especially those living in a situation of greater inequality and in conditions of vulnerability and marginalization, in the formulation and implementation of public policies and actions of the States; and emphasize the importance of women and girls in the definition of the sustainable development goals, through the incorporation of a specific objective that approach the consecution of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Likewise, highlight the importance that the gender topic has for the post-2015 development agenda and accents the high-level event "Women in power and decision-making: building a different world", to be held in Santiago, Chile on 27 and 29 February 2015.

42. Celebrate the proclamation made by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2013 of the International Decade for People of African Descent with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development" and recognize the multi-ethnic character of our societies by developing a regional agenda that promotes social inclusion policies for the Afro-descendants populations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

43. Recognize that slavery and human trade were atrocious tragedies in the history of humanity. In this sense, CARICOM's initiative to create the Reparations Commission of the Caribbean Community is saluted.

44. Salute the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014 in New York, as well as the adoption of the final document and its principles.

45. Reaffirm our commitment to the policies laid out in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as approved by the General Assembly in December 2006, opened for signature on 30 March 2007, to build an inclusive society where persons with disabilities are given a fair chance of full participation. In addition to meeting the needs of the physical access to the built environment, we are committed to the provision of equal opportunity and access to all social, health, educational, economic and cultural facilities, services, and institutions. As such the actualization of social inclusion policies is not provided as a special reclamation of and for persons with disabilities, but is part of the social development and realignment of structural development beneficial to all. Our societies will define policies in consideration of article 2 (Definitions), article 3 (General principles), article 8 (Awareness-raising), article 9 (Accessibility), article 11 (Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies) and article 32 (International cooperation) in finding national and regional solutions in steps of social inclusion for persons with disabilities.

46. Reiterate efforts and purposes to coordinate and generate synergies in health issues between CELAC and other existent instances in the region that are convened in the framework of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the Ibero-American Conference, the International Conference of Nutrition, as well as in subregional groups such as the Council of Central American Ministers of Health and the Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic, Union of South American Nations, among others.

47. Recognize the importance of the application by the States parties to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of the measures provided, its guidelines, protocols and resolutions and pertinent decisions approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the World Health Assembly related to the prevention and control of non-transmissible diseases, and the strengthening of health systems, as fundamental premises of protection to public health, which seek to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights, individual and collective, in special the population in situations of vulnerability, such as children, young people and the poorest populations, persons with disabilities, as well as the full development of the nations. In this context, express their solidarity with the Oriental Republic of Uruguay in the exercise of its sovereign right of determining its public health policies.

48. Highlight the importance of actions of prevention and an eventual confrontation to the Ebola epidemic that have been held in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly the coordination held between CELAC and the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement with this end, and urge and urge that such joint efforts be further developed and can be extended to other serious health problems that affect or have the potential of affecting the countries of the region.

C. We face climate change and global warming

Our societies are highly vulnerable to climate change. This requires us to reaffirm our national and international commitments in relation to the protection

and conservation of the environment and biodiversity and the fight against global warming.

Convinced that climate change is one of the most serious problems of our time and that its increasing negative impact compromises the efforts for poverty eradication and sustainable development in the region, we recognize the need for effective and appropriate international cooperation and action, to accelerate the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the adoption of other adaptation measures and mitigation, and the assurance of adequate, foreseeable and sustainable means of implementation for developing countries, in accordance with the principles and dispositions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the decisions adopted by the Conferences of the Parties, in the context of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Taking into consideration the challenges to address disasters derived from the various natural, socio-natural and anthropogenic threats in the region, it is required to strengthen measures for the Integral Disaster Risk Management, the adaptation to change and the climate variability. We stress the need of a close internal coordination between neighboring countries to respond to the humanitarian consequences that disasters, such as flooding, hurricanes, droughts, and other, generate in our populations.

Faced with these challenges, CELAC's joint action will enable to advance in successful experiences and achieve measurable progress.

Therefore, we agree to:

49. Reiterate the regional commitment to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects and the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

50. Encourage the adoption of public policies within the framework of Agenda 21, for the full implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and other relevant instruments, in harmony with nature, highlighting the need for these policies to be implemented in the context of a comprehensive and independent vision of complementarity.

51. Salute the result of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima, Peru in December 2014 and that constitute a fundamental preparatory step in the development process of a legally binding instrument under the Convention that will be adopted in France in 2015 on the basis of equity, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and on their respective capabilities and the commitment to the provision of the means of implementation from the developed to developing countries, in particular in financial issues and under a system of measurement, report and verification.

52. Emphasize the Declaration presented by the pro tempore president of CELAC within the high-level segment at the twentieth session, as a regional effort to move forward in finding consensus in climate change issues, reiterating our will to continue working in deepening these consensus, with a view to conform a possible regional position in this matter, particularly in view of the twenty-first session, in Paris.

53. Reaffirm our commitment to promote the regional energy integration as a basis for sustainable development and the universalization of access to energy services that improve life quality and contribute to poverty eradication of the Peoples.

54. Reaffirm the commitment of the CELAC member States to the sustainable development of small island States and States with low-line coastal areas, which can only be achieved through a confluence of efforts involving governments, civil society and private sector, that takes into account the unique situations and vulnerability of these States, which can be addressed only through international cooperation.

55. Redouble efforts for comprehensive risk management and humanitarian assistance in disasters, ensuring the particular region needs and interest, view to be incorporated in the next World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. Promote the strengthening and the creation, when needed, of mechanisms of assistance and cooperation among our countries.

56. Express our support to the completion of the Humanitarian Summit, which will be held in Turkey in 2016 and the respective processes of regional consultations, which are being developed globally in consideration of this meeting. Reiterate, in this way, the special commitment of the region to the Latin American and Caribbean regional consultation, which will take place in Guatemala in May 2015 and encourage the participation of the CELAC member countries in this meeting.

57. Reaffirm the importance and challenges associated with defining a new urban agenda for the region, aware of the rapid urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean, in view of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to be held in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

58. Deepen the generation of housing and development resilient policies to ensure territorial equity, reverse urban segregation, promote sustainability in the territories, incorporate risk management, consider the relationship between small and intermediate towns and metropolis and strengthen institutions in the region. Also, reaffirm the need for these processes to be participative and recognize diversity as an opportunity for development.

D. Foster peace to achieve sustainable development

We recognize that peace is a supreme value of universal coexistence. Therefore we reaffirm the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and our ongoing commitment to nuclear disarmament and the proscription of weapons of mass destruction globally, the peaceful settlement of disputes, to banish forever use and threat of use of force in our region and against individual countries. Together we will make the Latin America and the Caribbean region not only a zone of peace but also a violence-free zone.

In our region, we built together the infrastructure for peace to promote well-being and sustainable development. Therefore, we reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of the right to peace, the Rule of Law, justice, education, and culture for peace, as well as the promotion, respect and observance of all human rights for all.

The region must face various forms and manifestations of transnational organized crime; terrorism; the world drug problem; trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants; and against illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, all forms of cybercrimes and any attempt of criminal actions against any of our countries. Organized crime is also a major threat for our democracy and development, therefore we must make every effort to control and eradicate this scourge.

We emphasize the value and contribution to international peace and security of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and its Protocols, which established the first densely populated area free of nuclear weapons on the planet.

Therefore, we decide to:

59. Reiterate the regional commitment to multilateralism, dialogue between nations, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and full respect to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and the inalienable right of each of our countries to choose their form of political and economic organization.

60. Support the unrestricted promotion and strengthening of peace, the prohibition of the use and threat of use of force, unrestricted respect to independence, self-determination of peoples, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of each country, thus reaffirming in this way that CELAC is a zone of peace and a region free of nuclear weapons.

61. Underline our full support for the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL).

62. Reiterate that complete, transparent, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament is an important goal of this Community of States and that the only effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is its total elimination and prohibition. In this context, member States of the Community support the negotiation of a universal legally binding instrument proscribing nuclear weapons with a multilaterally agreed timetable.

63. To reiterate our categorical rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, that not only constitutes a threat to peace and international security, but also undermines human dignity, peaceful and civilized coexistence and promoting international cooperation against this scourge.

64. Reiterate our rejection of unilateral lists and certifications by some developed countries affecting Latin American and Caribbean countries, in particular those referring to terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in person and others of a similar nature, and ratify the special communiqué adopted by CELAC on 7 May 2014 that rejects the inclusion of Cuba in the so-called List of States promoting international terrorism of the United States' State Department.

65. Take note of the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, as the first global, legally binding instrument to regulate the international illicit transfer of conventional arms, as well as take note of the interest of Trinidad and Tobago of hosting the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty.

66. Highlight education and promotion of the values of culture of peace as a foundation to create a new culture of non-violence; educate for the sustainability of

essential ethical principles of well-being and to contribute to the defense, respect and promotion of universal human rights, as well as and help promote co-existence with nature.

67. CELAC member countries join the rejoicing of the people and Government of Panama to celebrate the centenary of the Panama Canal, on 15 August 2014. The Centenary coincides with the expansion work that will continue to contribute to the economic and sustainable development in the hemisphere, as well to global trade and navigation.

68. Reiterate the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico and, in noting the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, reiterate that it is an issue of interest for CELAC.

69. CELAC member countries pledge to continue working, within the framework of international law, and in particular in resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations General Assembly of 14 December 1960, to ensure that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean be a territory free of colonialism and colonies.

70. Entrust the CELAC quartet, together with the participation of other member States wishing to join this mandate, to submit proposals to advance as stated in paragraph 38 of this Declaration.

71. Reiterate our firm support of the legitimate right of the Republic of Argentina in its dispute concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces, as well as our permanent interest that this dispute be settled through negotiations and peaceful means, pursuant to stipulations in resolution 31/49 of the United Nations General Assembly.

72. Welcome the historic decision of the Presidents of Cuba and the United States to re-establish diplomatic relations. Reiterate our strongest rejection of the implementation of unilateral coercive measures and once again reiterate our solidarity with the Republic of Cuba, while reaffirming our call upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on this sisterly nation for more than five decades. Urge the President of the United States that, in this way, use their broad executive powers to substantially modify the blockade.

E. We strengthen our ties with extraregional partners

The major global and sustainable development challenges require coordinated solutions by the international community. Decisions adopted in the present, will reduce potential conflicts in the future. The region is in a position to work jointly and coordinate when possible, with extraregional partners at many different issues on the multilateral agenda to move forward in the overcoming of the challenges.

In this regard, we will act to:

73. Encourage CELAC's dialogue with other countries, group of countries and organizations from other regions of the world with the sole purpose of enhancing action and regional discussions on topics of interest for the Community, to share and disseminate CELAC's positions on global issues, and to promote, where possible, regional initiatives for collaboration and cooperation, trade and investment, complementary to national and subregional efforts.

74. Congratulate the successful first Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CELAC-China Forum, held in Beijing on 8 and 9 January 2015, and reiterate our willingness to advance the implementation of its agreements immediately.

75. Highlight the agreement to hold the second Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CELAC-China Forum in Santiago, Chile, in January 2018.

76. Welcome the outcomes of the ministerial dialogues of CELAC's quartet with India, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Russia, held on 25 September 2014 in New York. Continue Ministerial Dialogues of CELAC's quartet with these partners, as well with the Republic of Korea, Turkey and other partners that have previously been held dialogues that demonstrate the regional potential for extraregional partnerships. Working to explore, during 2015, the convenience and viability of creating other forums and, in particular, with Russia and India.

77. Continue exploring the possibilities of having exchanges with the African Union, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and the League of Arab States.

78. Highlight CELAC relations with the European Union, established in the Rio Summit of 1999 and reaffirm the commitment to further deepen them with a new view of the bi-regional relations, to achieve a successful second CELAC-European Union Summit, in Brussels, on 10 and 11 June 2015.

F. We organize cooperation and promote the articulation of our actions

Latin American and the Caribbean region has a heritage of assertive, tangible and successful experiences in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, which complements in conjunction with national actions, for the fulfillment of CELAC objectives, to favour mutual knowledge, promote unity and integration, facilitate the knowledge transfer, and to visualize results.

In this regard South-South cooperation constitutes, for our Community, a privileged instrument for complementarity, union, integration and horizontal exchange of knowledge between its members, allowing us to meet the enormous common challenges and to help the governments of our region to achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth for the benefit of our peoples.

Therefore, we agree to:

79. Reiterate that the CELAC Declaration on International Cooperation, adopted on 29 January 2014, during the second CELAC Summit in Havana, and the CELAC Conceptual Framework for International Cooperation adopted during the second meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, celebrated on 29-30 July 2014 in San José, Costa Rica is the document that will guide the cooperation in the Community.

80. Recognize the importance and particularities of South-South cooperation and reaffirm our vision of South-South cooperation as a concrete manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, which contributes to their national well-being, improves their self-sufficiency and facilitates achieving the development objectives established at national and international level. It also allows developing countries to play a more active role in international politics and decision-making processes, supporting their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

81. Reiterate the importance of articulation of CELAC actions of cooperation of the Working Group of Cooperation with other CELAC Working Groups, to build cooperation bridges inside and out of the region, as well as to foster the capacities and strengths of the member States and those of the region, especially in those contexts in which defined mandates and priorities exist. Develop the articulation mechanisms among CELAC authorities with the National Coordinations and the Working Group on International Cooperation.

82. Highlight the need to foster intergovernmental dialogue, in the various areas of the international agenda with the international bodies and regional and subregional integration mechanisms to avoid duplication of actions, to give coherence to the processes of regional cooperation, guarantee the complementarity and achieve a added value of CELAC regional cooperation to the already existent actions.

83. Express our satisfaction with the report of action taken pursuant to the mandate of cooperation with the sister Republic of Haiti and reiterate the will to identify new forms of cooperation with the expectation of meeting the needs expressed by the country.

G. We act immediately:

We reaffirm that CELAC is the forum for dialogue and political cooperation par excellence of the 33 countries in the region, in which our unity in diversity is valued and common positions and exchange of experiences in many areas are encouraged, both regional as global.

We reiterate our commitment to continue working on the basis of consensus, defending the multi-ethnic, multicultural, multinational and diverse character of the Community in its undertakings and to guide our regional work in all areas, towards the implementation of actions with vocation and regional impact that allow us to find joint solutions to common challenges and problems.

We decide then to:

84. Welcome the conclusions of the sectorial meetings, held pursuant to the CELAC Plan of Action of Havana, which allow to follow-up and give continuity to the agreed mandates and thank the different countries that have hosted various meetings, listed as follows: Meeting of the Working Group on Social Development and Eradication of Hunger and Poverty on 25-26 November 2014 in Caracas, Venezuela; second Meeting of High Authorities on Family Farming, 10-13 November 2014 in Brasilia, Brazil; second Meeting of Ministers of Culture on 21 August 2014, in Caracas, Venezuela; first Meeting of High Authorities on Science and Technology, on 1-2 April 2014, San José, Costa Rica; second Meeting of CELAC-European Union High Authorities, 3-4 April 2014, San José, Costa Rica; first Meeting of CELAC Industry and Commerce, 10-11 April 2014 all in San José, Costa Rica; second Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure for the Physical Integration of Transport, Telecommunications and Border Integration, 5-6 December 2014 in Montevideo, Uruguay; third Ministerial Meeting on Energy, 14 October Lima, Peru; third Meeting on Migration, 22 and 23 October 2014 in Azogues, Ecuador, first Meeting on the World Drug Problem, 13-14 May 2014 in Antigua, Guatemala; second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Prevention and Fight against Corruption, 8-9 December 2014, Quito, Ecuador; second Meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, 29-30 July 2014, San José, Costa

Rica; first Meeting of Regional and Subregional Integration Mechanisms and Bodies, 18-20 June 2014 in Caracas, Venezuela; first Meeting of Regional and Subregional Integration Mechanisms and Bodies on Culture, 17 July 2014, San José, Costa Rica; first Meeting of Regional and Subregional Integration Mechanisms and Bodies on Tourism, 10 November 2014 in Port Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; first Meeting on the Working Group on the Promotion of Equity, Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 21 August 2014, San Salvador, El Salvador; first Meeting of the Working Group on the Fight of Illicit Traffic of Small and Light Weapons, 11-12 September 2014, San Salvador, El Salvador; first Meeting of the Working Group on Afro-descendants, 4-5 December 2014, Brasilia, Brazil.

85. Highlight the support provided by regional bodies and integration mechanisms to the Costa Rican pro tempore presidency in compliance with the objectives of the Community, and support the coordination, of the regional and subregional integration mechanisms.

86. Adopt the CELAC Action of Plan 2015, in order to consolidate actions in an effort to achieve regional sustainable development and the ultimate goal to eradicate hunger and poverty.

87. Focus on the work of the sectorial areas defined over the CELAC discussions, concentrating the actions of the Community on these areas to achieve full compliance with the commitments made in each one of those areas.

88. Promote sectorial meetings of CELAC Plan of Action 2015, which gives continuity to the fundamental principles that inspire actions of the Community in the pursuit of human development and sustainable development.

89. Thank the distinguished Government of Ecuador for assuming the CELAC pro tempore presidency in 2015 and hosting the fourth CELAC Summit in 2016.

90. Acknowledge the Dominican Republic for hosting the pro tempore presidency of CELAC during 2016 and hosting the fifth CELAC Summit.

91. Take note of the offer of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to host CELAC's pro tempore presidency during 2017 and the sixth Summit.

92. Thank the work done by the pro tempore presidency held by Costa Rica during 2014 in complying with mandates agreed and in advancing CELAC international agenda, as well as the valuable support of the quartet and the member countries of the Community, who served as hosts of one or more sectorial CELAC meetings.

93. Highlight the value of the discussions during the third Summit on: the challenges of CELAC in the fight against poverty, with an emphasis on transparency and accountability, and fight against corruption; the definition of regional positions in the multilateral arena; the discussion towards the Post-2015 Developing Agenda and on Financing for development; as well as the fundamental role of CELAC as a mechanism for consultation and political dialogue in the process of integration and coordination of common policies and actions in the region.

94. Express our gratitude to the distinguished Government of the Republic of Costa Rica for the successful celebration of the third CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Belen, Costa Rica, on 28 and 29 January 2015 and for its leadership in consolidating CELAC internationally.

Annex II to the letter dated 2 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Action plan 2015

Food security and hunger and poverty eradication

1. Implement CELAC's Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025, developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ECLAC and the Latin American Integration Association following up on the mandate, which emanated from the CELAC Action Plan 2014.

2. Hold during the second semester of 2015, in the Republic of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the second CELAC Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, in order to evaluate the advances achieved, approve the Strategic Agenda of Regional Coordination and follow-up the decisions of the Ministers.

Family farming

1. Adopt and implement the Functioning Framework for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Farming, as well as to enforce its Action Plan 2015, both adopted during CELAC Ministerial Declaration on Family Farming, held on 10 and 11 November 2014 in Brasilia.

2. Hold the third Meeting of the Working Group on Family Farming, during the first semester of 2015, with the objective to evaluate the advances of the work delineated in the Plan of Action of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Farming, and the second Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming during the second semester, in Costa Rica, with the objective of determining cooperation actions in this sphere, from the agro-technical as well as productive points of view, and define the sources of available financing.

3. Promote dialogue, exchange of experiences and cooperation with successful initiatives at the subregional level in the field of family farming, such as the MERCOSUR Special Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUR; and contribute to the implementation of the Plan for food nutrition security and the eradication of hunger 2025.

4. Reiterate the FAO to carry out as soon as possible the necessary actions to conceptualize and define the concept food sovereignty.

Education

1. Hold the first Meeting of the CELAC Working Group on Education, in 2015 in San José, Costa Rica, in order to generate a Plan of Action to execute the Roadmap defined by the Ministers and Heads of delegations that participated in the first CELAC Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Havana, Cuba on 7 February 2013, with the objective of adopting required measures to advance in the eradication of illiteracy in CELAC countries and to promote the joint action with the Plans of Action of subregional and international mechanisms in CELAC, as well as educational cooperation at all levels.

Culture and dialogue among cultures

1. Convene the third Ministerial Meeting on Culture in the Republic of Cuba from 17 to 19 September 2015, with the objective of advancing in the consolidation of cultural cooperation, in promoting regional policies, following-up the decisions adopted during the second CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Culture, held on 21 August 2014.

2. Follow up on the virtual work initiated by the Working Group on Culture, coordinated by Costa Rica, in its capacity as pro tempore president, that will be used as the basis to elaborate a proposal of vision, mission and procedures for the CELAC Ministerial Meetings on Culture. Celebrate in this way, the first Meeting of the Working Group on Culture during the first semester of 2015, prior to the third Ministerial Meeting on Culture.

3. Continue the promotion the development of the Portal of Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Labour

1. Endorse the creation of the sectorial area of Labour in CELAC; following up the proposal presented during the Meeting of Ministers of Labour of the Community held in Lima, Peru on 14 October 2014, at the sidelines of the eighteenth Meeting of the American Region of the International Labour Organization.

2. In this context, held the first Meeting of the CELAC Working Group on Labour during the first semester of 2015 to prepare the CELAC Action Plan in this matter in a country to be defined.

3. Reiterate the need to prepare a study on the existent mechanisms in order to strengthen the labour and certification competence, particularly in the segment of youth population, as well as the improvement on the supply and quality of technical and professional education, according to the productive requirement of each country and subregion, according to the national strategies of productive and industrial development.

Migration

1. Execute the decisions and mandates delineated in the Minute of commitments of the third Meeting on Migration, held on 22 and 23 October 2014 in Azogues, Ecuador, as well as previous agreements on this issue.

2. Strengthen the internal normative, the regional frameworks of protection and cooperation, as well as accomplish the international obligations assumed by the States in relation to migratory issues, in order to guarantee the human rights and fundamental liberties of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status, with special emphasis on children and youth, accompanied, unaccompanied or separated.

3. Hold the fourth CELAC Meeting on Migrations in the second semester of 2015, in Guatemala.

4. Continue CELAC coordination in relation to the CELAC-European Union Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration, in which the positive link between migration, development and human rights will be strengthened.

World drug problem

1. Follow up on the commitments acquired in the first Ministerial Meeting on the World Drug Problem, held in Antigua, Guatemala, on 13-14 May 2014 in order to confront, with an integral and balanced approach, the challenges that the world drug problem represents for the region.

2. Coordinate common positions within CELAC in international forums, specially looking forward to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the world drug problem (2016).

3. Reiterate the request included in CELAC's Plan of Action 2014 to the representatives of the Regional, Subregional and International Mechanisms and Bodies that deal with this issue, to continue contributing with information in order to develop a strategic agenda on this topic that allows to generate synergies and complementarity and that avoids duplicity of human and financial efforts.

4. Continue the work within the framework of the CELAC-European Union Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism on Drugs.

5. Hold the second Ministerial Meeting on the World Drug Problem during the first semester of 2015.

Citizen security

1. Support holding the first CELAC Senior Officials Meeting with the representatives of Regional, Subregional and International Mechanisms and Bodies, to be hosted by the Republic of Chile in 2015.

Prevention of and fight against corruption

1. Follow up the decisions and recommendations reached during the second Specialized Ministerial and High Authorities Meeting on Prevention and Fight against Corruption, held in Quito, Ecuador on 8 and 9 December 2014. Instruct the Working Group to implement the mandates of the Quito Declaration and present progress reports in 2015.

Citizen participation

1. Exchange opinions, good practices and national experiences looking forward to put into action the Havana Action Plan regarding Citizen Participation in the CELAC.

Promotion of equity, equality and empowerment of women

1. Follow up the decisions of the first Meeting of the Working Group on the Advancement of Women, held on 21 and 22 August 2014 in San Salvador, El Salvador.

2. Hold the second Meeting of the Working Group on the Advancement of Women during the second semester of 2015, with the objective of evaluating the execution of the list of commitments agreed on in the first Meeting of the Working Group.

Combat against the illicit trade in small and light weapons in all its aspects

1. Follow up the agreements of the first Meeting of the Working Group on Illicit Trade in Small and Light Weapons, held on 11 and 12 September 2014 in San Salvador, El Salvador.

2. Develop a study that showcases the situation concerning the capacities of each State in relation to the prevention, the combat and the elimination of illicit trade in small and light weapons, ammunitions that might be used as basis for future actions related with the creation of a Cooperation Mechanism in this topic, for which a matrix that facilitates the recollection of information, on a voluntary basis, will be developed.

3. Hold, virtually or otherwise, the second Meeting of the Working Group on the Illicit Trade in Small and Light Weapons in all its aspects in the second semester of 2015, in a country to be determined.

People of African descent

1. Implement the CELAC's special communiqué adopted at the CELAC Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, in New York, on 27 September 2013, that proclaimed the Decade of Latin American and Caribbean People of African Descent, starting on 1 January 2014.

2. Implement the Latin American and Caribbean People of African Descent Action Plan, resulting from the first CELAC Working Group Meeting on People of African Descent, held in Brasilia, on 4 and 5 September 2014.

3. Instruct the CELAC Working Group on People of African Descent to follow up, make recommendations and facilitate cooperation among CELAC members to implement the Action Plan for the Decade of Latin American and Caribbean People of African Descent.

Science and technology and innovation

1. Follow up the decisions of the second Meeting of High Authorities on Science and Technology, held on 1 and 2 April 2014 in San José, which are delineated in the Declaration of San José and the report of this meeting.

2. Support the work of the Working Group on Human Talent, coordinated by Costa Rica, and of the Working Group on Knowledge Management, coordinated by Brazil, both formed during the second Meeting of High Authorities on Science and Technology celebrated in San José.

3. Hold the third Meeting of High Authorities on Science and Technology during the first semester of 2015 in order to follow up the work of the Working Groups on Human Talent and Knowledge Management.

4. Progress in the identification and implementation of mechanisms for cooperation in the field of cybersecurity that allows facing cyberthreats, particularly those that affect the security of States, organizations and individuals, as well as promote cooperation on the improvement of the use of ICTs for education, science, technology and innovation and agriculture, among other sectors, geared at encouraging the development of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Productive and industrial development

1. Follow up the Plan of Action approved by the first Meeting of Ministers of Economy and Industry, held on 10 and 11 April 2014 in San José.

2. Support initiative mechanisms and organizations in the field of productive and industrial development.

3. Hold the second Meeting of Ministers of Economy and Industry during the first semester of 2015, in Ecuador.

Latin American and Caribbean preferential tariff

1. Promote the articulation of ECLAC, the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) and the general secretariats of the subregional integration mechanisms for preparing a statistical study based on preferential commerce within CELAC, in order to elaborate a proposal that contributes to the regional integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. Request the Andean Community, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement and the Caribbean Community to submit to LAIA the information required to conclude the expansion and update of the document "Agreements between the member countries of CELAC".

3. Celebrate the third Meeting of the Working Group on a Latin American and Caribbean Preferential Tariff in the course of 2015, in a country to be defined.

Infrastructure

1. Follow up the agreements adopted during the first Meeting of the Working Group on Infrastructure for the Physical Integration of Transport, Telecommunications and Border Integration, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 5 and 6 December 2014, and to advance in the definition of the roadmap guiding the activities of the Working Group.

2. Hold the second Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure for the Physical Integration of Transport, Telecommunications and Border Integration during the second semester of 2015, in a country to be determined.

Finance

1. Retake the agenda of the Finance Working Group following the guidelines of the Quito Declaration adopted during the second Meeting of Ministers of Finance, held in November 2013, in which the pro tempore president was instructed, along with the Expanded Troika, to carry out a Working Plan project to put into consideration of the member States. The Working Group will take into consideration the Finance area of the CELAC Action Plan 2014 and the progress achieved by subregional integration mechanisms in the area of finance. The Working Group will meet during 2015 to implement its mandates.

Environment

1. Hold the second Meeting of the Working Group on Environment during the first semester of 2015, in a country to be determined, in order to follow up the work of the first Meeting of the Working Group on Environment, held in Quito in April 2013.

2. Hold a meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Environment and other high-level national authorities that deal with climate change issues, in order to identify and validate a possible common position towards the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in December 2015 in Paris, France.

Energy

1. Follow up the identified activities by the Working Group according to the Montego Bay Plan of Action of October 2013 and to the Declaration of Montego Bay on Energy Security and Regional Integration, documents that were adopted during the second Meeting of the CELAC Ministers of Energy, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 24 and 25 October 2013.

2. Hold the second Meeting of the Working Group on Energy during the first semester of 2015, in a country to be determined, to elaborate a proposal for energy strategy in CELAC, with the support of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), aiming at its approval during the fourth Ministerial Meeting on Energy, in the sidelines of the forty-fifth OLADE meeting.

3. Follow up the decisions reached and embodied in the Declaration of the third Ministerial Meeting on Energy, held on 7 November 2014 in San Salvador, El Salvador in the sidelines of the forty-fourth OLADE meeting.

International humanitarian assistance in case of disaster

1. Hold the first Meeting of the Working Group of High Authorities on Integrated Disaster Risk Management during the first semester of 2015, in the sidelines of the seventh meeting on Enhancing International Humanitarian Partnerships, in order to develop a Regional Plan of Action on this matter that includes proposals on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance for the elaboration of a Strategic Regional Agenda for the Integrated Disaster Risk Management. The Plan and the Agenda must take into account and act in a complementary and articulated manner with the efforts of regional and subregional mechanisms on cooperation and coordination in this field.

2. Actively participate in the regional consultations to be held in Guatemala from 5 to 7 May 2015, a preparatory session for the World Humanitarian Summit to the held in Turkey, 2016, and whenever possible articulate CELAC proposals to be considered in the elaboration of a new strategic agenda resulting from the Summit.

3. Deepen the collaboration and coordination with the process of international humanitarian partnerships.

4. Reiterate the request to FAO and the World Food Programme so that they can provide technical support in order to design and implement regional initiatives oriented to the prevention, reduction and disaster risk management.

Planning

1. Convene in the first trimester of 2015, a meeting of the competent planning authorities of CELAC member States, with the objective of exchanging experiences, strengthening dialogue, and elaborating a CELAC planning agenda to be considered by the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

Cooperation

1. Instruct the pro tempore president to communicate to the Working Group on International Cooperation all agreements in the field of cooperation resulting from CELAC sectorial meetings and the CELAC meetings of integration mechanisms, as well as to articulate the means to secure the participation of the International Cooperation Group in the meetings of regional and subregional integration mechanisms and bodies so as to facilitate the fulfillment of its mandate, as defined by the first CELAC Summit in Santiago de Chile.

2. Mandate to the Working Group on International Cooperation to systematize the capacities and strengths of each member State and elaborate the mapping of areas, where South-South cooperation can be identified.

3. Instruct to the Working Group on International Cooperation to work articulately with other intraregional mechanisms to strengthen and widen the strategies to relate with intraregional and extraregional blocks, so that no efforts are duplicated in the development of actions and projects of regional cooperation.

4. Advance in the identification and implementation of new alliances and cooperation projects, according to the priorities submitted by the Haitian government, using as a base the cooperation report from Haiti 2010-2014, presented by Costa Rica as pro tempore president.

5. Hold the third Meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation in the first semester of 2015, in a country to be determined.

Regional and subregional integration mechanisms and bodies

1. Follow up the matrix of proposals for action, developed during the third Meeting of Regional and Subregional Integration Mechanisms and Bodies, held in December 2013 in San José, in order to continue promoting their complementarity and convergence of actions.

2. Hold, during the first semester of 2015, the fourth Meeting of Regional and Subregional Integration Mechanisms and Bodies with the participation of the States, to assess the advancement of the actions identified during its third Meeting held in San José, and to analyse the best method to fulfill the mandate of complementarity and convergence of actions among the Mechanisms and Bodies.

3. Promote the active participation of the regional and subregional integration mechanisms in CELAC's thematic agenda, so that they can contribute with technical input, research and expertise to the work of the sectorial areas of the Community.

Post-2015 development agenda

1. Participate in the negotiation process of the post-2015 development agenda and work to identify regional priorities.

2. Develop and strengthen cooperation actions in the different offices and multilateral forums in which the topic of the post-2015 development agenda is considered over the basis of regional priorities.

International affairs

1. Hold meetings of Permanent Missions of CELAC member States to the United Nations in New York to continue strengthening gradually coordination on major issues on the agenda of the Organization where there is consensus, in accordance with the mandates and results of the Summits and Ministerial Meetings, with special emphasis on the post-2015 development agenda.

2. Intensify consultation between the CELAC member States at the United Nations and other multilateral forums to continue expressing us as a region when appropriate, on issues of interest and relevance to the member States of the Community and submit, whenever possible, joint and agreed initiatives.

3. Deliver by way of the pro tempore president of CELAC, declarations, action plans, special declarations, special communiqués and other statements of the Community as official documents of the United Nations, under the corresponding agendas.

Relations with extraregional partners

1. Carry out the agreements reached at the first Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CELAC-China Forum, held in Beijing on 8 and 9 January 2015, for the consolidation of the Forum, taking into account the identified areas of interest for the region.

2. Advance CELAC political dialogues with India, Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as agreed at the respective meetings of the quartet of CELAC Ministers for Foreign Affairs with these partners, celebrated in the sidelines of the sixty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in September 2014. Explore the possibility to create other extraregional forums during 2015, in particular CELAC-Russia and CELAC-India.

3. Continue the discussion on the Guidelines for CELAC Relations with Extraregional Partners, based on the proposal presented by the Costa Rica as pro tempore president during the tenth Meeting of the CELAC National Coordinators, held in San José, on 25 and 26 November 2014, and the considerations submitted by the member States with the objective to organize the future work with extraregional partners.

Belén, Costa Rica, 29 January 2015

Annex III to the letter dated 2 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Special declarations adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in Belén, Costa Rica, on 29 January 2015

Special declaration 1: small island developing States

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015:

Recognizing the particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean, which constrain their efforts towards sustainable development, taking into account the significant impact of natural events and the negative effects of climate change, in particular the increase of sea level, as grave threats to their survival;

Recognizing the significance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, which among other things, declared 2014 as the International Year of SIDS and created the platform for having the priorities of SIDS become an integral part of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and related sustainable development goals;

Recognizing the importance of other relevant United Nations Conferences and Summits on sustainable development, particularly the sustainable development of SIDS; and in this regard take special note emphasizing the importance of the Caribbean Sea Initiative in the United Nations;

Reaffirming the validity of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as a specific fundamental framework for their sustainable development;

Recalling the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa, from 1 to 4 September 2014, which focused the world's attention on a group of countries that are a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities;

Recognizing the importance of the outcome document of the Conference, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, as a blueprint for achieving sustainable development of SIDS, and reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the sustainable development of SIDS through partnerships;

Recognizing ECLAC's efforts to promote knowledge and understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Caribbean SIDS, in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda and related sustainable development goals;

Recognizing the need for attention to be given to the means of implementation of the development agenda of SIDS, in order to include partnerships, capacity-

building, disaster risk reduction and resilience building and appropriate technology transfer;

Recognizing the importance of coherence among the relevant global developmental processes with the SAMOA Pathway to ensure continued focus on a group of countries that remains a special case for sustainable development;

1. We call for an increase in all forms of partnerships with and for small island developing States (SIDS) at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to reach their sustainable development priorities and needs.

2. We also call for enhanced international cooperation recognizing the different contributions that can provide North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and especially cooperation directed to small island developing States.

3. We urge all countries to fulfil their commitments to small island developing States, through the provision of predictable and reliable financial resources, according to their capacities, to support the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the SAMOA Pathway. In this regard, we urge the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments to developing countries, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries.

4. We call for coherence among the global development agendas and processes to ensure that the priorities of SIDS are taken into account in their elaboration. These processes include the post-2015 development agenda and related sustainable development goals, the climate change Conferences, the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, third International Conference on Financing for Development and the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2015.

5. We decided that the Latin American and Caribbean continue to support the sustainable development agenda, specially taking into account the specific vulnerabilities of the SIDS, through regional cooperation, follow up to the agreements adopted at different International Conferences, and the permanent attention to climate change related problems and actions to mitigate the effects of disasters, as well as, support, in the international level, the sustainable development of small island developing States.

Special declaration 2: initiative of erecting a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015;

Recalling the tragedy and horrors of the inhuman system of the transatlantic slave trade, which uprooted from their homes 15 to 20 million men, women and children, who were shipped and traded as cargo to the Americas, receiving an inhuman, unfair and despicable treatment and subjected to torture, abuse and forced labour;

Underscoring that slavery and the transatlantic slave trade are of the gravest crimes against humanity, the consequences of which are still present in society, and have neither been adequately researched nor recognized;

Welcome the formation of the Caribbean Community Reparations Commission, and notes its ongoing work to define the issues and challenges arising from the centuries-long transatlantic slave trade and the genocide committed against indigenous populations, as well as the key areas identified by the Caribbean Community Reparations Commission: chronic diseases, education, cultural deprivation, psychological trauma and scientific and technological backwardness;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013 by which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2024, as well as General Assembly resolution 69/19 of 21 November 2014 on the permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

Recognizing the importance of educating present and future generations about the causes, consequences and lessons of slavery in ensuring that this dark period in human history is never repeated;

Welcoming the increased attention that the permanent memorial initiative at the United Nations and its associated activities have brought to the issue of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade:

1. Endorse the initiative to erect at a place of prominence and accessibility at the United Nations Headquarters, a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and transatlantic slave trade;

2. Recalls the establishment of a trust fund account for the permanent memorial, in the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships — Permanent Memorial, administered by the United Nations Office for Partnerships, and notes the current status of contributions to the Trust Fund;

3. Expresses deep appreciation to those member States, which have contributed to the permanent memorial initiative;

4. Encourage those States that have not yet done so, to make a contribution to the Fund established for the permanent memorial;

5. Commit to ensuring that such a heinous system is never allowed to recur, and in this regard, further commit to support the completion of the permanent memorial initiative.

Special declaration 3: need to create effective mechanisms to overcome the difficulties of Paraguay as a landlocked developing country

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, for the third Summit of the Latin American and Caribbean State Community (CELAC), held on 28 and 29 January 2015,

Reaffirm the need to promote the growth and development of CELAC's member States and reduce the asymmetries that exist. In this context, they remark the importance of the functioning of effective mechanisms and their renewal to overcome the difficulties faced by Paraguay as a landlocked developing country, based on Article 5 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994; article 35 of

the Doha Ministerial Declaration; MERCOSUR Council of the Common Market decisions 33/07 and 19/11 on freedom of transit; the following resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly: resolution 55/2 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration, resolution 56/180 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries and resolution 63/2 on the outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries; the joint communiqués by MERCOSUR member States and associated States dated 29 June 2011 and December 2011; the Asunción Declaration issued at the twenty-first Ibero-American Summit on 29 October 2011; the special communiqué of the Latin American and the Caribbean Heads of State and Government on Paraguay as a landlocked developing country, issued by CELAC's second Summit, in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014; and the special communiqué on the need to create effective mechanisms for overcoming the difficulties of Paraguay as a landlocked developing country, adopted at the twenty-fourth Ibero-American Summit held in Veracruz, Mexico on 8 and 9 December 2014; the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, adopted at the United Nations Second Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

They recognize that the Republic of Paraguay, despite its special status as a landlocked country, may be an important link between the Atlantic and the Pacific. In this regard, we undertake to give the necessary support for the implementation of effective measures that allow them to overcome their vulnerabilities and problems associated with that status, by providing free transit through the territory of the transit countries by all means of transport in accordance with the applicable rules of international law, and international conventions, bilateral agreements.

Special declaration 4: protection of children and adolescents against bullying

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015,

Concerned by the recurring bullying, and cyberbullying in the region and by the negative long-term effect that this conduct has on the full enjoyment of human rights of the children and adolescents.

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the highest standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of children and adolescents.

Welcoming resolution 69/158 on protecting children from bullying, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2014:

1. Categorically reject bullying, a conduct that affects the exercise of human rights of children and adolescents, and commit to adopt all necessary measures to prevent and protect children and adolescents, both in schools and in any environment, including the virtual space, from all forms of violence, including bullying, as well as to provide adequate support, both to victims and perpetrators; as actives subjects or passive spectators.

2. Decide also to take steps to prevent bullying, particularly through education and awareness as effective resources in promoting tolerance, inclusion, the sense of dignity, understanding and mutual respect.

3. Recognize that bullying can be associated with stereotypes that cause discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical disability or any other difference; therefore, we commit to further the fight against all forms of bullying and discrimination.

4. Recognize the importance of collecting information and statistical data by sex, age and other relevant variables, as a contribution for developing effective public policies against bullying and decide to work in this direction through their appropriate national institutions.

5. Agree to share national experiences and best practices on the prevention and fight against bullying, including cyberbullying, in the region.

Special declaration 5: question of the Malvinas Islands

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 28 and 29 January 2015:

1. Reiterate their strongest support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as the permanent interest of the countries of the region in the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to find — as soon as possible — a peaceful and definitive solution to such dispute, pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, as expressed by them in the previous declarations of the Rio Group and the Latin America and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development — especially the Declaration of the Unity Summit, held in Riviera Maya, Mexico, on 23 February 2010 — which are part of the historical heritage of CELAC;

2. Highlight that December 2015 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), the first one to specifically refer to the question of the Malvinas Islands, which has been subsequently renewed, to the present date, through successive resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Special Committee on decolonization. Furthermore, they note with satisfaction the important contribution made by the Special Committee on decolonization through its discussion of the question during the 50 years that have passed since the adoption of resolution 2065 (XX);

3. In this context, the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States instruct the pro tempore president to request the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, to renew his efforts to carry out the good offices mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly through successive resolutions, with a view to achieving the resumption of negotiations aimed at finding — as soon as possible — a peaceful solution to the abovementioned dispute, and to inform them of the progress made in such mission;

4. Furthermore, they reiterate the importance of observing United Nations General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls upon both parties to refrain from

adopting decisions that entail the introduction of unilateral modifications to the situation, whilst the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are subject to the process recommended by the General Assembly;

5. They highlight the permanent constructive attitude and willingness of the Argentine Government to reach, through negotiations, a peaceful and definitive solution to this anachronistic colonial situation on American soil.

Special declaration 6: climate change

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015:

Reaffirming our belief that climate change is one of the most serious problems of our time and our concern for its growing negative impact on developing countries and small island States in particular, which compromises the efforts to eradicate poverty and to achieve sustainable development.

Reaffirming in this context and in the framework of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities, that the global nature of climate change requires the cooperation of all countries in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the historical responsibilities of developed countries, in order to accelerate the reduction global emissions of greenhouse gases and adaptation measures, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties;

Considering the Quito Declaration adopted at the first Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in Quito, Ecuador, on 3 February 2012;

Taking into account the need for adaptation of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries and their particular vulnerability to climate change, including among other the SIDS, the indigenous peoples and other tribal peoples, the poor and marginalized communities;

Reaffirming that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, require new funding, additional to traditional official development assistance, predictable and untied, to meet the needs of mitigation and adaptation in particular, to prevent and remedy the losses and damages caused by the change climate;

Recognizing the importance in addressing slow onset events in Latin America and the Caribbean which were acknowledged in the decisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Recognizing that all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have the right to sustainable development and that its policies and measures to mitigate against and adapt to climate change must be consistent with specific circumstances of each country and should be integrated with national development programmes;

Reaffirming the declaration that Costa Rica, as pro tempore president, pronounced on behalf of CELAC during the twentieth session of the Conference of

the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, whereby the region unified its voice to give impulse to the multilateral negotiations to strengthen the climatic regimen;

Decide:

1. To urge all countries of the international community, particularly the developed countries to fulfil their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and to ratify urgently the Amend to the Protocol to allow the entry into force of second period of commitments that it can enter into force as soon as possible.

2. To reiterate the need for developed countries to comply with existent commitments in a transparent way and to increase their funding, technology transfer and capacity-building commitments, for Latin America and the Caribbean, to meet their needs for mitigation and adaptation to climate change by providing new, additional, predictable and untied, as part of the commitment to provide 100 billion dollars annually by 2020 through the Green Climate Fund and the establishment of monitoring, reporting and verification mechanisms.

3. Congratulate the Government and people of Peru for having successfully hosted the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP20/CMP10), that took place in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014, which achieved substantial results in the global action on climate change.

4. Acknowledge the adoption of the "Lima Call for Climate Action" during COP20/CMP10, as a major step forward in the negotiation of the elements of the 2015 agreement, the preparation of nationally determined projected contributions and the acceleration of pre-2020 climate action.

5. Commend, in addition, the Government of Venezuela for having organized the first Social PreCOP on Climate Change, held from 4 to 7 November 2014.

6. Underscore the legally binding nature of the new agreement to be negotiated and approved by COP21, which must respect the principles of the Convention and strengthen the implementation of its provisions.

7. Stress that the 2015 agreement must develop on the basis of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in a manner that avoids backsliding from the commitments assumed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and moves us all towards a just agreement in the global effort against climate change.

8. Emphasize the need for an effective treatment of adaptation in the framework of 2015 agreement, in a balanced manner with respect to mitigation, which is reflected in the context of the elaboration of the basic elements of the new agreement.

9. Reiterate the need to fulfil existing commitments on means of implementation, in order to build the necessary confidence for reaching an

agreement in 2015, in particular, through clear actions by developed countries to scale-up resources that are sufficient and additional, including transparency on how they intend to achieve their commitments.

10. Emphasize the need to strengthen mechanisms for participation and education of society in matters of climate change, promoting a perspective of justice, equality and integration of the different visions of society, including among others indigenous peoples and local communities, and considering gender equality, protection and implementation of the human rights, education and empowerment of women and youth as transformative forces to advance innovative solutions to climate change.

11. To express our appreciation to all Parties who made pledges to the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund at COP20.

12. To reaffirm the will to strengthen CELAC as a forum for dialogue and political agreement on issues of the international and regional agenda, including climate change, with a view to the deepen the understanding of priorities, national circumstances and different positions of the countries of the region ahead of the negotiations of the new global agreement on climate change by 2015, and try to identify common regional position on this matter.

13. Renew our commitment to regional, inclusive, equitable, integrated development, taking into account the importance of ensuring favourable treatment to SIDS and low-lying coastal States.

Special declaration 7: need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015:

1. Express their strongest opposition to the coercive economic measures not supported by the international law, including all those unilateral actions imposed on sovereign countries for political reasons that impair the well-being of their peoples and are designed to prevent these countries from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their political, economic and social systems.

2. Reiterate their firm rejection to the application of laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Law, including its extraterritorial effect, and urge the Government of the United States of America to put an end to its application.

3. Welcome the announcement made on 17 December 2014 by the Presidents of the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America, Raul Castro Ruz and Barack Obama, respectively, on the reestablishment of diplomatic relations. In light of the declaration formulated by President Obama, and urge to take all actions within his executive powers to substantially modify the blockade against Cuba and the United States Congress to initiate, as soon as possible, a discussion on removing it.

4. Remember that, since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly has reiterated in 23 resolutions, the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and

financial blockade imposed against Cuba by the Government of the United States of America and highlight the support given by 188 member States of the United Nations to the most recent resolution, resolution 69/5, adopted on 28 October 2014, and calls upon the international community to maintain identical attitude while the blockade against Cuba is in existence.

5. Reiterate their opinion that this blockade is contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

6. Reiterate their deep concern and rejection to the strengthening of the extraterritorial dimension of the blockade, as well as on the increasing persecution of Cuba's international financial transactions, which is contrary to the political willingness of the international community.

7. Request to the Government of the United States of America to fulfil the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and in response to the repeated calls from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, which is contrary to international law, severely and unjustifiably damaging the well-being of the Cuban people and affecting peace and coexistence among the nations of the Americas.

Special declaration 8: supporting the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015,

1. Reiterate their total condemnation of all acts of terrorism as a criminal and unjustifiable act, and reaffirm their commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cases in which there are States involved, directly or indirectly, in strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law, of international norms on the protection of human rights and of international humanitarian law to this end, among other actions, they will strengthen and reinforce, as is necessary, their national legislation and will promote an active and efficient international cooperation to prevent, investigate, sanction and eliminate every manifestation of this scourge. Likewise, they commit to take quick and effective actions to prevent, penalize and eliminate the financing and the preparation of any terrorist act and to deny safe haven to instigators, funders, authors, promoters or participants in terrorist activities, in accordance with the international legal framework, including the respective international conventions and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

2. Reaffirm their commitment to the United Nations Global Strategy Against Terrorism, adopted in September 2006, updated in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014, and reiterate their determination to implement the principles enshrined in said strategy and to develop all the actions provided for therein as the most effective way to end the threat of terrorism and ensure full respect for the Rule of Law and respect for Human Rights. They also welcome the work done by the Team of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and exhort for the Strategy to remain valid and updated;

3. Emphasize again, the need to avoid impunity and reaffirm the legitimate right of the States to prosecute and convict in accordance with their domestic laws those who commit terrorist acts, and urge all States to fully cooperate in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with international law, especially in those States against whose territory or nationals terrorist acts are committed, causing the death of innocent people, injured and pain to the families of the victims of these acts, preventing those acts to be organized, incited or financed against other States through organizations based in their territories, in order to find, capture and deny safe haven and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of prosecution or extradition and in keeping with their national legislation, those who support or facilitate the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or the provision of safe haven or who participate in or plan to participate in such acts;

4. Reiterate their rejection to the unilateral elaboration of blacklists accusing States of allegedly supporting and sponsoring terrorism which is inconsistent with international law. In this context, reiterate the terms of the CELAC special communiqué of 7 May 2014, that rejects the inclusion of Cuba in the so-called List of States Sponsoring International Terrorism of the US State Department;

5. Urge all States to ensure, in keeping with international law, that the status of refugee or political refugee is not illegitimately used by those who finance, commit, organize or sponsor terrorist attacks, of their responsible, and/or of front organizations used by terrorist groups;

6. Condemn the fact that the person responsible for the terrorist attack in October 1976 against an aircraft of *Cubana de Aviación*, which killed 73 innocent civilians, has not been tried for terrorism, and they support actions to achieve his extradition or to bring him to justice;

7. Reaffirm the value of extradition as an essential tool in the fight against terrorism and urge those States which have received extradition requests for terrorists submitted by the member States of our Community, to duly consider them in full compliance with the applicable legal framework;

8. Call upon all States that have not yet done so, to consider the possibility to adhere, urgently, to all conventions and protocols concerning terrorism, to fulfil obligations arising from such instruments, as well as from all international agreements that compel them to provide police, financial intelligence, and legal assistance, to prosecute and punish promptly and appropriately those persons who organize, plan finance, sponsor, participate and/or commit terrorist acts, in strict compliance with international law, human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as the national legislation of each State, against persons, public or private providers of cargo and passenger transportation, internationally protected persons, diplomatic representations, tourist facilities and other public and private facilities;

9. Shall continue working for the adoption of necessary and adequate measures in accordance with their respective obligations under international law, in order to prohibit by law incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as to prevent such acts;

10. Request the States, in the framework of the United Nations, to cooperate to finalize the draft agreement on a comprehensive convention against international terrorism, in order for this to serve as an efficient instrument in the fight against this scourge;

11. Reiterate their profound solidarity with the victims of terrorist acts and their families, express their desire to receive the necessary support and note with satisfaction the opportunity that presents itself for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to lend continuity to the First United Nations International Symposium for the support of the Victims of Terrorism, which was held in 2008; manifesting their consent for the recent creation of a practical mechanism of international assistance to the victims in the framework of the United Nations.

Special declaration 9: education for sustainable development

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28-29 January 2015;

Recognizing that education for all, free and quality is an essential element for achieving sustainable development in our countries;

Recognizing that education is a fundamental key to face the challenges of poverty eradication, the change in consumption and production patterns towards more sustainable modalities, the elimination of discriminatory practices as racism, sexism, exclusion, among others, and is a fundamental instrument for the promotion of a peace culture, the strengthening democracy and the consolidation of more just and inclusive societies;

Reaffirming the commitments on education contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) entitled "The Future We Want";

Reaffirming that full access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as human development, for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action, for the full participation of women and men, in particular young people;

Stressing the need for ensuring equal access to education for persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, local communities, ethnic minorities and people living in rural areas and the migrants;

Emphasizing the importance of greater international cooperation to improve access to education, including by building and strengthening education infrastructure and increasing investment in education, research and innovation, particularly investments to improve the quality of education for all in developing countries, and encouraging international educational exchanges and partnerships, including the creation of scholarships to help achieve global education goals;

Welcoming the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development and the declaration resulted thereof, held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan from 10 to 12 November 2014 and the decisions adopted during the 195th session of the UNESCO Executive Board, held in Paris, from 15 to 30 October 2014, in particular decision 195 EX/6 entitled "Education beyond 2015";

We agree:

1. To promote education for all, free and quality for sustainable development in the Latin America and Caribbean region and to integrate sustainable

development more actively into education beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

2. To Promote and support initiatives to strengthen the work of higher education institutions in the countries of the region, to carry out research and innovation for sustainable development, including in the field of education, and to develop quality and innovative programmes, including entrepreneurship and business skills training, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as other legal models of enterprises, including social associations of collective enterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives based on social and environmental sustainability, professional, technical and vocational training and lifelong learning, geared to bridging skills gaps for advancing national sustainable development objectives.

3. To highlight the role of education for sustainable development for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the achievement of its objectives.

4. To welcome the inclusion of themes relating to education for sustainable development in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which will be the main basis for integrating this topic into future post-2015 development agenda ensuring equitable access to education at all levels with focus on the vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, persons living in rural areas, and migrants.

5. To promote programmes that strengthen the teaching of the three dimensions of sustainable development through pedagogical techniques that promote participatory learning, the critical thinking, the logical reasoning, the creativity and the formation of active, ethical, caring, tolerant, participatory, law-abiding citizens, allowing the transformation of the school into a community of positive values.

6. To promote the development of innovative educational strategies adapted to the new demands and needs of our countries, including ethnical and ethical approaches, so contributing to the formation of youth respectful of dialogue, human rights, culture, diversity, democracy, interculturality and sustainable development.

7. To emphasize that the application of education for sustainable development should fully take into consideration local, national, regional and global contexts, and the contribution of culture to sustainable development, as well as the need to respect, promote and to generate a culture of peace, non-violence, cultural diversity, traditional and local knowledge, ancestral languages, indigenous wisdom and practices and the promotion and protection of all human rights for all, gender equality, democracy and social justice.

8. To strengthen South-South cooperation, as complement of the North-South cooperation, with the view of promoting the right to ensure access to quality education at all levels in our countries, aiming at creating opportunities and achieving, sustainably, the greatest possible impact on the lives of the most vulnerable sectors.

9. To encourage exchanges and international partnerships on the topic of education, including in particular, creation of scholarships to help to achieve global goals of education.

10. To join efforts with UNESCO in promoting education for sustainable development, as the fundamental, in the construction of a new post-2015 development agenda.

Special declaration 10: world drug problem

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015,

Reiterating its commitment to the Santiago Declaration of the first Summit of CELAC, held in Santiago, Chile, on 27 and 28 January 2013; where in paragraphs 28 and 29, it was expressed support for the debate on the achievements and limitations of current policies to address the world drug problem;

Considering the special declaration of the second Summit of CELAC, held in Havana, Cuba, on 28 and 29 January 2014, which stressed the need for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and balanced approach to this problem;

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening the regional cooperation to address the world drug problem, as highlighted in the communiqué of the first Ministerial Meeting on the World Drug Problem that CELAC held in La Antigua, Guatemala, on 13 and 14 May 2014;

Recognizing that the global drug problem has implications in the public health, public safety and well-being of humanity, particularly children and adolescents, also undermines the rule of law, the democratic institutions, the political stability and affects the development, that, therefore, must be addressed in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, from a comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary approach based on full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, based on policies and actions towards the welfare and health of individuals, in accordance with the three United Nations Conventions, in particular with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the political declaration of 2009.

1. Emphasize the importance of preserving the welfare, quality of life and respect for the human rights and the inclusion of the human person as the centre of the policies against drugs, and the need of promoting administrative and legislative measures in the field of health, education and social inclusion to prevent the abuse of drugs, psychotropic substances and new psychoactive substances, with a, strengthened, balanced and multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach to reducing supply and demand, as well as, to reduce the negative economic and social consequences of this phenomenon.

2. Reaffirm that addressing the global drug problem is a common and shared responsibility requiring effective international cooperation, as well as, comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary strategies and policies addressed to reduce the supply and demand in accordance with national laws and the three United Nations Conventions on drugs and other relevant international instruments, fully respecting the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

3. Recognize that policies demand reduction to address the world drug problem must be made by adopting an approach with a gender perspective and vulnerable groups given full respect for human rights, and must be designed and implemented with a focus on gender, vulnerable groups, public health and prevention of violence and crime, as well as the need to develop, strengthen and implement in accordance with the reality of each State, strategies that prioritize prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, as well as reducing violence linked to the problem, in order to strengthen the social fabric and well-being of people.

4. Encourage member States, within the framework of their national legislation, to work together with civil society, academy and relevant stakeholders to contribute to the efforts of States to address the world drug problem.

5. Emphasize the importance of strengthening, within the framework of their national policies, local economic development through programmes of comprehensive, alternative and sustainable development, including, when appropriate, those with preventive approach, as a set of important measures to counteract the negative consequences of the world drug problem.

6. Call upon the international community to strengthen international cooperation on the drug world problem, to jointly address this problem by promoting and encouraging comprehensive policies on this issue, in accordance with the international commitments made by the States and emphasize the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive discussion among member States, based on scientific evidence and that considers the ancestral culture.

7. Finally, recall the communiqué of the first Ministerial Meeting on the subject, and encourage the need for active participation of member States of CELAC in international forums, in particular in view of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be held in New York in 2016, in order to contribute to the examination of the progress, achievements and challenges in dealing with the global drug problem, through a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive debate.

Special declaration 11: transparency and fight against corruption

We, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015,

Acknowledging that the prevention and fight against corruption is one of the priorities of member States in our Community, and recognizing the importance of generating synergies between the different instruments and international forums on the subject;

Considering the conclusions of the first and second Meetings of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Preventing and Fighting Corruption, which reaffirm commitments to create policies and regional articulation to bring forth a new culture of transparency and citizen participation.

Accepting the responsibility of member States of CELAC through the development of mechanisms to promote a culture of transparency and ensure citizen participation.

Defending the value of ethics and open information in our commitment towards our citizens, to improve services, manage public resources, promote innovation and create safer communities.

Agree to the following:

1. Reiterate the importance of transparency in the public management and the citizen participation to ensure greater prosperity, development with inclusion and well-being in the countries of the Region.

2. To encourage the development of policies, best practices and experiences to prevent and fight corruption, based on citizen participation, social control, transparency, accountability, ethics and public integrity. Likewise, to increase access to public information and transparency in order to foster and ensure an efficient, participatory and democratic governance of the Community.

3. To promote and implement mechanisms for coordination between the institutions and supervisory bodies working in preventing and fighting corruption in member States, to fight corruption and the use of mechanisms to recover assets obtained through this crime, according with their intern legislation.

4. To promote public policies and government transparency mechanisms based on free access of citizens to public information, ensuring accountability, participatory and democratic governance, through the strengthening of procedures and mechanisms for the participation of citizens, civil society, private sector and public institutions in government decisions as appropriate.

5. To promote the effective implementation of international instruments on prevention and fight against corruption in our countries, especially the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

6. To foster technical exchanges of good practices and support among the member countries of CELAC in order to strengthen technological platforms that encourage citizen participation, access to information and transparency and to share experiences, information and technical resources.

7. To recognize the importance of open standards and data to promote, according with the national legislations and national mechanisms, civil society access to public data as appropriate, and to facilitate the interoperability of government information systems.

8. To create and improve, according to technical possibilities and infrastructure, accessible and secure online spaces such as platforms for service delivery, public participation and exchange of information and ideas. We acknowledge that equitable and affordable access to technology remains a challenge for developing countries so, it is essential to reduce the digital divide at the international level to seek greater online and mobile connectivity.

9. We recognize that increased access to technology entails supporting the ability of governments and citizens to use it. Therefore, we shall support the development of technological innovations by governments and citizens, reaffirming that technology is a complement and not a substitute for clear, truthful and useful information.

Special declaration 12: candidacy of Trinidad and Tobago to host the secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty

In view that the Arms Trade Treaty was concluded at the United Nations Headquarters, New York on 2 April 2012, adopted by majority of States during the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly and that the Treaty which was opened for signature on 3 June 2013,

Underlining Trinidad and Tobago's interest to host the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty, announced by Trinidad and Tobago at the signing ceremony for this Treaty at the United Nations Headquarters on 3 June 2013

Considering the Arms Trade Treaty entered into force on 24 December 2014:

- Welcome the decision taken at the Latin American and Caribbean Group meeting held on 22 December 2014, in New York, whereby the Group formally endorsed the candidature of Trinidad and Tobago to host the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty, a demonstration of the level of solidarity and of the fraternal relations which exist among members of the Group;

- Call on nations to support the importance of having diversification in location of international organizations in areas other than Europe and North America. Developing countries at the United Nations have advanced the need to adhere to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the location of major international organizations. This principle has found expression in various resolution adopted by the General Assembly. The continuation of the practice whereby there exists a disproportionate number of major global institutions, located in developed countries is contrary to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, and also fails to take into consideration the important contribution that has been made and continues to be made by developing countries to international peace and development.

- Recognize that in preparation of the First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, Trinidad and Tobago will host the First Preparatory Meeting towards the First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, which will take place on 23 and 24 February 2015 in Port of Spain.

- Support likewise the interest of the Government of México to host the First Conference of States Parties to the Treaty, in 2015.

Special declaration 13: challenges of middle-income countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States: towards a results-based approach

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015;

Reiterating the right that each nation has to peacefully and freely build its own political and economic system, in accordance with the sovereign mandate of its people, and the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation that underlay in CELAC's actions, and within the framework of the full enjoyment of human rights comprised in the various documents of the United Nations;

Recognizing that the majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries have been classified as middle-income countries, limiting therefore their access to concessional financing;

Recalling that the current middle-income countries classification does not take into account the multiple dimensions of the integral concept of development nor the social and territorial heterogeneity of this group of countries;

Recognizing that serious situations of inequality and poverty affecting particularly the most vulnerable population groups persist in the Latin America and the Caribbean, hindering the achievement of an inclusive sustainable development; that within countries there are structural gaps of multidimensional nature expressed in asymmetries; and that unemployment and underemployment levels, particularly of the youth, remain high in many of our countries;

Recognizing that though countries classified as middle-income countries in our region have made significant progress in the fulfilment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, they still face serious challenges in poverty in its multiple dimensions and have specific development needs in which international cooperation plays an important role. Hence the importance of identifying, prioritizing and measuring structural and inequality gaps to better understand such needs, in accordance with national priorities and development plans of each country;

Recalling that Latin American and Caribbean countries are experiencing slow economic recovery from the world financial and economic crisis which has significantly affected the socioeconomic gains made by the region in the achievement of development goals;

Wishing to share economic and financial experiences that enable the development of a productive dialogue on measures to address the impact of the international financial crisis, particularly to support the most vulnerable sectors;

Stressing the important role that middle-income countries have in the context of development cooperation and highlighting the importance of supporting their invaluable role in South-South and triangular cooperation, and recognizing the conformation of an archive of South-South cooperation practices; we reiterate that the support of the international community both bilaterally and through bodies, is still required to continue contributing to the sustainable development of our countries;

Further emphasizing the importance for the States to cooperate and work together for mutual benefit, particularly countries with special needs, such as landlocked developing countries, and the Caribbean SIDS which are small, open and vulnerable to the fluctuations of external markets, the fluctuations of the global economy, and the increasingly disruptive natural events provoked by the still unchecked effects of climate change;

Recognizing that this vulnerability is exacerbated because in addition to the harmful effects of the global financial and economic crisis, our countries must also deal with the policies of differentiation or graduation, which compromises the access of middle-income countries to concessionary funding and to official development assistance;

Highlighting the importance for all developing countries to continue being eligible for receiving international cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally, including the cooperation provided by the United Nations system;

Highlighting also the need to find new parameters and alternative methodologies, complementary to the existing criteria, for classifying middle-income countries, which reflect more accurately and equitably the development level, the complexity of each country and poverty in its multiple dimensions, including in this context the analysis of their structural gaps;

Reaffirming our commitment to resolution 68/222 on development cooperation with middle-income countries of the United Nations General Assembly;

Reaffirming the need for meaningful reform of the international economic governance system which would give real voice and representation for the participation of developing countries, thus enabling them to benefit from growth and equitable development;

1. Welcome the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SAMOA Pathway, which comprehensively addresses the full range of priorities of SIDS, many of them middle-income countries, to include: sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all; biodiversity; and, most importantly, the means of implementation.

2. Urge action to adopt measures consistent with the call of the High-level Conference on Middle-Income Countries held in San José, Costa Rica on 12 to 14 June 2013, for promoting a joint position regarding the status as developing countries of CELAC members, given existing asymmetries, including those expressed at the regional, local and territorial levels, and we call upon to adopt new measurement criteria that reflects the multidimensional approach of development.

3. Welcome the progress made in the challenges faced by middle-income countries in the international economic agenda, and the ongoing dialogue with various international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and as such, encourage continued support for cooperation and engagement of interested countries on these matters in the United Nations and other international forums.

4. Urge international financial institutions to assess their policies on differentiation and graduation and to grant small indebted middle-income countries access to loans at concessionary rates, to allow debt restructuring in sustained and favourable conditions, while progress is achieved internally.

5. Reiterate the need of developed countries to fulfil their commitments on development cooperation, particularly those related to official development assistance through additional, predictable and enough financial resources, effective cooperation measures, including triangular cooperation for capacity-building and technology transfer.

6. Recognize the contribution of international cooperation for development received by our countries and highlight the need to have indicators to reflect more accurately the reality of middle-income countries and more specifically the particularities of the Caribbean SIDS.

7. In this context and considering that the current criteria on middle income, based solely on per capita income, do not reflect the complex and diverse realities of these countries, we underline the need to review the methodologies and urge to create a more solid basis to measure progress in terms of development, such as the measurement of multidimensional poverty, structural gaps approach or evaluation of human development index, all mutually complementary methodologies, and we stress the importance of supporting statistical capacity-building in these countries.

8. Recall that progress in Latin America and the Caribbean has been limited by the slow recovery from the financial and economic crisis as well as by complex challenges in terms of promoting equality and public safety, the hazardous effects of climate change, and lack of adequate access to mitigation and adaptation financing and to the official development assistance that developed countries pledged to provide, among others.

9. Further call upon the United Nations system in general and to the United Nations Development Programme in particular, taking into account their universal presence and the role it will play regarding the post-2015 development agenda, to improve its institutional and financial mechanisms regarding the problems faced by the countries classified as middle-income countries, taking into consideration the specific development needs of these countries and the impact of their development in their capacity to contribute to South-South cooperation.

10. We call on development cooperation to be effective in countries classified as middle-income countries; and to be based on the specific situation of each of them, and on their respective sectorial and regional capabilities. For example through innovative financial mechanisms, loans concession, and technical cooperation, or the granting of concessions if necessary; as well as, through bilateral official development assistance for countries that still need it, particularly lower middle-income countries.

11. We express our profound interest in establishing a truly global partnership for development based on the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the outcome document of Rio+20, which integrate all subjects of the development agenda that will be galvanized by the third International Conference on Financing for Development. In that context, we recognize the importance of CELAC preparatory meeting to be held in March 2015, in Santiago de Chile, with the objective to contribute to the regional dimension of the process.

12. Renew our permanent commitment to work in the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and strengthen our joint efforts in the process for the elaboration of post-2015 development agenda and the preparatory process of the Third Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015. We reiterate our desire to continue promoting the establishment of a Comprehensive Action Plan for cooperation with middle-income countries within the framework of the United Nations and to link its objectives with the agreements to be reached in the post-2015 development agenda.

Special declaration 14: post-2015 development agenda

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28-29 January 2015;

Recognizing the important advances undertaken by the international community in the process of establishing the post-2015 development agenda and recognizing the importance of having ambitious, comprehensive, inclusive, open and transparent intergovernmental process and the need for this process to be member States driven and have the capacity to accommodate to the different models and visions of development of our countries and their Peoples;

Reaffirming the central role of member States in the formulation and implementation of the new development framework and highlighting the importance of a strong and comprehensive intergovernmental effort to build a transformative and universally applicable post-2015 development agenda; in order to overcome the existing development gaps;

Reaffirming our commitment to engage in an active and constructive manner in the following phases of the elaboration and adoption of the Agenda and recognizing the importance of this regional forum to catalyse intergovernmental efforts allowing to promote coordination for such purposes;

Reiterating the final document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) "The Future We Want" and its recognition that poverty eradication is the greatest challenge faced by the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

Recognizing that planet earth and its eco-systems are our home and that "mother earth" is a common expression in many countries and regions, and observing that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of promotion of sustainable development;

Recognizing the recent adoption of resolution 68/309 by the United Nations General Assembly, by which it was decided that the proposal contained in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, including its means of implementation and its reservations, shall be the main basis for integrating the sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered in the intergovernmental negotiation process;

Acknowledging the need for the post-2015 development agenda to be based and guided by an integrated and balanced view of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

Highlighting that the means of implementation, including the results of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and those contained in the final document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, are critical requirements for the viability and the success of the implementation of this Agenda;

Recognizing that the international context should take into consideration the different visions, approaches, models and tools to attain sustainable development; also the different stages of development, priorities, circumstances and capacities of the developing countries; as well as the multidimensional nature of poverty;

Recognizing that the negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda will require the observance and the application of all Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as it was reflected in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the right of countries to develop in order to ensure sustainable development in all developing countries;

Recognizing that financing for development is crucial for implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the sustainable development goals. In this regard, the Third Conference on Financing for Development, to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 July 2015, and also, the Preparatory Regional Meeting on Financing for Development to be held on 12 and 13 March 2015, at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, is called to become central element in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; having to take into account in addition, among other inputs, the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing;

Agree to:

1. Increase our efforts in order to reach consensus in the next stages of the process of establishing and executing the post-2015 development agenda, including the results of the upcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development, to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 July 2015, and also, the Preparatory Regional Meeting on Financing for Development to be held on 12 and 13 March 2015, at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, in order to identify and promote priority areas for the region and thus ensure a true and genuine global partnership for development.

2. Promote the establishment of a post-2015 development agenda that recognizes the specific sustainable development challenges of all developing countries, including middle-income countries and small islands developing States, taking into consideration the different visions, approaches, models and instruments to attain sustainable development, in its three aspects, the need of the modification of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; with the developed countries taking the initiative, taking into consideration the principles of the Rio Declaration, particularly Principle 7, related to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities.

3. Promote the creation of synergies between the process for the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda and the preparation process of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, highlighting the need to agree on relevant and foreseeable means of implementation.

4. Continue promoting the establishment of a comprehensive United Nations plan of action for cooperation with middle-income countries according to their characteristics, particular needs and its role in the cooperation for development system, as well as, coordinate efforts within CELAC member States representations to the United Nations in order to fulfil this objective, observing the international law and its principles.

5. Take advantage of the existing initiatives to elaborate indicators to measure the progress achieved in sustainable development that complement the GDP and support fostering the statistical capacity in the developing countries.

6. Reiterate the need to support the efforts of the developing countries to strengthen their national measurement and statistical capacities, in order to achieve an effective tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the post-2015 development agenda, to be carried out in a transparent, voluntary and participatory way and the full use of statistical information on sustainable development for decision-making on a national level.

7. Work together to ensure that the development goals agreed, correspond with their means of implementation to ensure developing countries the conditions necessary for their achievement, including the flow of resources, capacity-building, development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sustainable technology on favourable terms for our countries.

8. Recognize the importance and particularities of South-South cooperation and reaffirm the principles under which it is governed, and that distinguish it from other forms of cooperation. Likewise, reiterate our view of South-South cooperation as a concrete manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, complementary to North-South cooperation, that can contribute to their national well-being, and facilitate the attainment of nationally and internationally agreed development goals and support the implementation of policies and strategies of national development.

9. Promote a specific discussion and, when possible, coordination at the level of representatives of CELAC member countries, who will participate in the process of discussion and negotiation of the post-2015 development agenda in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to identify regional priorities and exchange impressions with other coordination spaces of the developing countries.

Special declaration 15: Internet governance processes

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held on 28 and 29 January 2015;

Recognizing the importance of the Internet as an open global public good that must be managed and developed according to the public interest as an instrument that highly contributes to reach an information and knowledge society;

Recognizing that the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent, democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations; it should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism;

Reaffirming the need for progress in building a regional and national Internet governance frameworks, based on international law and the respect for human rights, the principles of democracy, social inclusion, peace, regional cooperation and integration, participation and multilateralism, than ensures non-interference and respect to the sovereignty of the States, as well as the right of all to privacy, in order to achieve a democratic, multi-stakeholder and inclusive Internet governance, and where all States' interests be represented, regardless of their stage of development;

Convinced also of the need to ensure the stability and security of the Internet and of ensuring the legitimacy for its governance, based on the full participation of

all stakeholders, both developed and developing countries, in the exercise of their respective roles and responsibilities;

Remembering the strategic importance of the active involvement of States and Governments, the civil society, academic institutions and the private sector of Latin America and the Caribbean, in regional and global Internet governance processes;

Highlighting that the rights to privacy, to freedom of speech and opinion as a whole are conveyed in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Reaffirming our commitment to the provisions of article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of their personality is possible, and that, in the exercise of their rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. In this way, we shall promote an Information Society where human dignity is respected;

Reaffirming that the same rights that people have offline should be protected when they are online, as established in Human Rights Council resolutions 20/8 of July 2012 and 26/13 of June 2014;

Stressing the importance of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, resolution 68/167 of 18 December 2013 of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

Taking as a base the UNESCO concept on the access to the Internet in the approach of multi-stakeholder, that advocates the access to the web in an open, accessible and participative manner, given that these same principles are enshrined in the spirit of the universalization of education, social inclusion, gender equity, multilingualism and multiculturalism in cyberspace, access to information and knowledge, ethical thinking and press freedom;

Recognizing the centrality of the principle of web neutrality as a basis for universal, affordable, unrestricted and equal access to the Internet and some content flowing through it;

Recognizing the importance of the information and communication technologies, including free software and hardware tools in human, social, cultural, scientific and technological development, while observing current regulations in each country;

Recognizing that the digital technologies, in particular software, are a living and dynamic representation of the processes of the public and private doing and therefore are a form of knowledge that have capacity of continuously direct the required changes for a constant evolution of our States and societies;

Reaffirming the need to promote digital development and digital sovereignty to foster social, economic and cultural progress of nations, in the framework of full respect to human rights;

Considering that cyberthreats and cyberattacks are a violation of the principles of international law, in such a manner so as to constitute a threat to peace and stability of countries and regions;

Appreciating the potential that the region has of becoming a new "region of knowledge networks", in which the social, cultural, political and economic areas of our countries can be vitalized thanks to the networks that provide wide added value of knowledge to these processes and social dynamics;

Have resolved:

1. Promote, defend and respect all human rights for all, including right to development in the context of the Internet.

2. Strongly condemn the actions of espionage and indiscriminate massive and global monitoring among countries by State and non-State actors, demanding absolute obedience to the rules of international law, in relation to the respect for State sovereignty and human rights, especially privacy.

3. Promote actions and strategies to strengthen cybersecurity and prevent cybercrime, and in particular, create mechanisms for the eradication of cyberwar and promoting the Internet as a space of peace.

4. Reaffirm the need that the use of Internet and the information and communication technologies be strictly in accordance with the principles of international law and, in particular, the respect for the sovereignty of States and the non-interference in their internal affairs.

5. Deepen the process of promotion and sensitization of the Internet as a public good in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda process of negotiation and implementation, as a mechanism to support and accelerate the advances in the fundamental aspects of the sustainable development goals aiming to reach a democratic society and sustainable development.

6. Take part in the revision process of the ten years of the World Summit on the Information Society, by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

7. Defend, protect and ensure web neutrality, as a pillar of the Internet Governance, so that Internet traffic flows without distinction or priority of its content, origin, destination, service, terminal, application.

8. Foster the adoption of interoperability standards of hardware and software including those of free use, in the private scope as in public institutions, educational, scientific and of research, encouraging innovation, open access to knowledge, the use and reutilization of open data, while observing the current regulations of each country.

9. Progress in the development of plans for the strengthening of the communication infrastructure as a strategy to promote digital development in the region, establishing through plans for investment in construction, efficient management of radio spectrum, establishment of internet exchange points, infrastructure densification and construction of data centres a national, regional and global level, and holding the character of the communications infrastructure as a public good.

10. Promote building regional networks of knowledge that vitalize and generate added value in the social, cultural, political and economic areas of our

societies in all CELAC member States aspiring to turn Latin America and the Caribbean into a region of knowledge networks.

11. Call the international community to promote the transfer of technology and knowledge in favourable conditions for developing countries, including preferential terms and conditions, including ICTs, to adopt policies and programmes with a view to assisting developing countries to take advantage of technology in their pursuit of development through, inter alia, technical cooperation and the building of scientific and technological capacity in our efforts to bridge the digital and development divides.

Special declaration 16: urgent need for a nuclear weapon free world

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015,

1. Take pride of the formal proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a "Zone of Peace" on the occasion of the second CELAC Summit, held in La Havana, Cuba, on 29 January 2014.

2. Highlight the importance and contribution of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and its protocol to international peace and security, which established the first densely populated nuclear free zone in the planet. Stress our full support to the work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in this regard, reaffirm the importance of the collaboration and cooperation between CELAC and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the specialized body in the region for articulating common positions and joint actions on nuclear disarmament;

3. Reiterate once again our grave concern at the threat for humanity caused by the ongoing existence of nuclear weapons and its possible use or the threat of their use;

4. We reiterate our firm conviction and standing commitment to continue promoting full and verifiable nuclear disarmament, as a priority objective of the Community, and the urgent need to achieve total elimination of nuclear weapons. We are convinced that the only effective guarantee against the use or the threat to use of nuclear weapons is their complete elimination and prohibition.

5. We reaffirm once again our decision to join the efforts by the international community to advance towards the negotiation of a universal legally binding instrument prohibiting the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, and establishes its verified destruction, thus to contribute with general and complete disarmament and the strengthening of trust between nations.

6. Stress that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, a crime against humanity, and at the same time a violation of international law, including humanitarian law, and recall that in this regard the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion of 1996 unanimously called for negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons;

7. Reaffirm once again the provisions of resolution CG/Res.563 on the urgent need for general and complete nuclear disarmament and the Strategic Agenda of OPANAL, both adopted by the 33 member States, in the twenty-third regular session of the OPANAL General Conference, on 22 August 2013 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

8. Highlight in this regard, the need to advance in the corresponding Strategic Plan of the OPANAL, one of the key remaining mandates of the General Conference and other organs of the Agency; and to promote and coordinate the work of the CELAC and OPANAL, in defence of nuclear disarmament.

9. Identify as a legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States, which includes all CELAC member States, the unequivocal and legally binding assurance by nuclear-weapon States not to use or threat to use such weapons. CELAC member States call for negotiating and adopting, as soon as possible, universal and legally binding instruments on negative security assurances;

10. Reiterate our call to all States, particularly nuclear-weapon States to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons from their doctrines, security policies and military strategies and policies; in the sense of obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the commitments of the NPT review conference, as well as national policy statements. Likewise, we exhort those countries that have joined to extended nuclear deterrence policies in military alliances based on nuclear weapons to implement policies that enable then to eliminate their reliance on nuclear weapons of other States, in accordance with the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and its obligations under the NPT;

11. Reaffirm our greatest concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of vast proportions and global effects of any accidental or intentional nuclear detonation;

12. Congratulate Austria for hosting in Vienna the third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, in December 2014, and Mexico for hosting in Nayarit the Second International Conference on this issue in February 2014. As has been demonstrated by the testimonies of survivors and evidence and scientific data, nuclear weapons constitute a serious threat to security, development of peoples and civilization in general. Being consistent with our declarations, in this purpose we reiterate our strong support to the call made in Vienna and Nayarit to initiate a diplomatic negotiation process of an internationally legally binding instrument for the prohibition of nuclear weapons;

13. Stress the importance of active participation by CELAC member States in formulating concrete proposals to achieve general and complete nuclear disarmament, in accordance with a multilaterally agreed, clear, irreversible and verifiable time frame.

14. We are committed to open negotiations, at the highest political level, for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons through a legally binding instrument, so we welcome the proposal of Cuba aimed to achieving the adoption of a legally binding instrument on nuclear disarmament presented at the third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Vienna on 8 and 9 December 2014, and endorse the Austrian Pledge which was announced at the end of the Conference.

15. Almost 70 years after the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Community requires that nuclear weapons are not used again, under any circumstances for any actor.

16. Maintain our firm stance in favour of the full implementation of the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination or double standards; and reiterate our concern that, while the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation and the inalienable exercise of peaceful use of nuclear energy have been implemented, the objectives of nuclear disarmament have not registered progress;

17. Reaffirm the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons — cornerstone of the disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime — and highlight the importance of its universality;

18. Reaffirm the States inalienable right to develop, produce and make peaceful use of nuclear energy without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the NPT. Reiterate the commitment of all parties to the Treaty to facilitate participation in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful use of nuclear energy;

19. Highlight the sovereign right of States to managing its energy sources, including nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

20. Urge all nuclear-weapon States, to fulfil the commitments under article VI of the NPT, and to negotiate effective measures that lead to prohibition and complete elimination of those weapons;

21. Noting that States possessing nuclear weapons continue investing large sums to maintain and modernize their nuclear arsenals, we declare that nuclear disarmament also represents a socioeconomic imperative for the international community, so we urge them to allocate more resources aimed at promoting peace and sustainable development, particularly to the least developed countries.

22. Highlighting that half of annual investment in nuclear arsenals would be sufficient to achieve the internationally agreed development goals for poverty reduction, including the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, we stress that a world without nuclear weapons is not only rational economic measure, but also represents a necessary action to address the root causes of socioeconomic instability.

23. In this regard, we urge all NPT parties to fully and immediately implement the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, as well as in the Plan of Action adopted at the 2010 Review Conference; recall that all the parties to it must fulfil the mandate to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, as stipulated in article VI of the NPT.

24. Regret the failure to convene the International Conference for the establishment of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East that should be celebrated in 2012, and remind that this commitment is an important and integral part of the commitments of the 1995

Review and Extension Conference and final outcome of the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences;

25. Remains strongly convinced that the establishment of said zone would represent a transcendental step toward a peace process in the Middle East region and urge for the convening and celebration of this Conference as soon as possible, provided the agreement by the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NTP) on 1995, 2000 and 2010.

26. Emphasize *our* condemnation to the enhancement of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons, which is inconsistent with the obligation of adopting effective measures towards nuclear disarmament;

27. Reiterate the importance of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and urge those States in annex II to the Treaty whose ratification is essential for its entry into force to accelerate the process of signing and/or ratifying this instrument;

28. Insist that all States must refrain from carrying out nuclear weapon test explosions, other nuclear explosions or any other non-explosive relevant experiment, including subcritical tests and those performed by supercomputers. Such actions are contrary to the objective and purposes of the CTBT, as well as to the spirit of the Treaty, thereby undermining the desired impact as a nuclear disarmament measure;

29. Declare our rejection to nuclear testing and all strategic concepts for the defence and security justifying the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons, or based on the promotion and establishment of military alliances and policies based on nuclear weapons and on policies of nuclear deterrence.

30. Urge the Conference on Disarmament to show the political will in order to ensure the commencement without delay of its substantive work through the adoption and implementation of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that advances the agenda of nuclear disarmament. *We stress* the urgency to commence the multilateral negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons in a non-discriminatory, irreversible and verifiable manner. We appreciate the contribution of disarmament initiatives undertaken at bilateral, regional, multilateral and universal levels as well as at all relevant forums where progress can be made, with the participation of nuclear-weapon States;

31. Recognize the work of the Open-ended Working Group established under resolution 67/56 of the United Nations General Assembly, with the mandate to put forward proposals to foster multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, including the proposals submitted and contributions made in this Group by CELAC member States;

32. Emphasize that the Treaty of Tlatelolco and OPANAL have constituted a political, legal and institutional reference in the establishment of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) in different regions of the world. Today, the experience of Tlatelolco, together with that of the other four existing NWFZs and Mongolia as a single State unilaterally declared free of nuclear weapons, constitutes an important political and legal heritage of the international community to inspire the establishment of new NWFZs, and advance towards the goal of a nuclear weapons free world;

33. Urge nuclear-weapon States to withdraw all interpretative declarations to the Protocols I and II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which constitute factual reservations prohibited by the Treaty, and to respect the denuclearized character of the Latin American and Caribbean region, thus contributing to eliminate the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons against the countries of the region. Therefore, the Community reiterates its commitment to continue working, including through the proper OPANAL organs, with the nuclear-weapon States parties to Protocols I and II, in order to achieve the removal of these interpretative declarations;

34. *Welcome* the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disarmament, held on 26 September 2013;

35. Highlight our intention to ensure proper follow-up to resolution 68/32 of the General Assembly entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament";

36. Welcome with appreciation the establishment of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, highlight the events around the world to commemorate the first observation of this day, and call on governments, parliaments and civil society to take further action annually to commemorate the day;

37. Welcome with appreciation the decision of the General Assembly to hold a high-level conference no later than 2018 to identify measures and actions to eliminate nuclear weapons at the shortest possible term, aiming at adopting a treaty banning the development, production, procurement, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat to use of nuclear weapons, and providing for their destruction within a multilaterally agreed time frame;

38. Reiterate *our call upon* all Heads of State and Government to publically express the imperative to eliminate nuclear weapons at all appropriate venues in order to bring the issue to the highest political profile and generate political will sufficient to address the threat;

Special declaration 17: support for the position of the Argentine Republic with respect to the restructuring of its sovereign debt

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 28 and 29 January 2015,

Acknowledging the right of all States to negotiate the restructuring of their sovereign debt, which should not be frustrated or hindered by the interests of minority groups of holders of non-restructured bonds of the debt;

Recalling paragraph 45 of the Declaration of Havana and the communiqué issued by CELAC on 20 June 2014;

1. Express their total rejection of the attitude of such speculative groups, whose actions represent an obstacle to reaching a final agreement between debtors and creditors, threatening international financial stability;

2. Demand guarantees that the agreements reached between creditors and debtors within the context of sovereign debt restructuring processes will be respected;

3. Reaffirm their solidarity with and support for the Argentine Republic in its search for a solution that does not hinder its development or the well-being of its people, and which is in line with its national development policies;

4. Express their intention to reach consensuses through all those international multilateral mechanisms, with the participation, when appropriate, of all pertinent institutions in the restructuring of sovereign debt. Specifically, highlighting, among others, the negotiation process opened by resolution 68/304 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly;

The Argentine Republic thanks member States for the support demonstrated by the Latin American and Caribbean Region for the Argentine position in the restructuring of its sovereign debt.

Special declaration 18: illicit trafficking of conventional weapons

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Costa Rica, on 28 and 29 January 2015, in the framework of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

1. Reiterate the urgent need to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, their parts, components and ammunitions.

2. Acknowledge that the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, their parts, components and ammunitions, their excessive accumulation and their uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world, which have a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and pose serious threats to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development in many levels.

3. Reaffirm the relevance and crucial importance of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPOA) as the global framework to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit trade in such weapons; and reiterate our commitment to its full and effective implementation;

4. Emphasize that, in the framework of this Programme of Action, work must continue to be done at the multilateral level towards the adoption of legally binding instruments on marking, tracing, illicit brokering, in order to prevent the diversion to the illicit market of small arms and light weapons, their parts, components and ammunitions.

5. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (ITI).

6. Take note of the outcome of the fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of UNPOA, which was held in June 2014, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and look forward to participating in the review cycle of UNPOA for 2014-2018.

7. Underscore that the adoption of the outcome document of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of UNPOA, in 2012, gives the international community a clear goal and timeline to

strengthen its efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

8. Recognize the value of comprehensively addressing the trans-border illicit trade in small arms and light weapons their parts, components and ammunitions, with full respect for each State's sovereignty.

9. Recognize as well the need to continue empowering public national and regional security institutions, in accordance with their respective constitutional and legal systems, aiming at strengthening the necessary national and regional capacities to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons their parts, components and ammunition, in the areas such as the legislative, border control, and forensic analysis, among others, as well as transnational organized crime.

10. Highlight the importance to strengthen regional and international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit manufacturing of and illicit trade in small and light weapons, their parts, components and ammunitions.

11. Reaffirm our support to the CELAC Working Group on the crime of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. This Working Group has the mandate to study comprehensively this issue, in order to generate proposals for mechanisms and procedures that will allow us to better coordinate our efforts in a more effective way, on the basis of full respect for international law and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to strengthening the prevention and combat of illicit traffic in this category of weapons, for the benefit of the citizen security.

12. Expect that the Arms Trade Treaty, the first multilateral legally binding instrument on the arms trade, which includes small arms and light weapons in its scope, will contribute to provide an effective response to the serious consequences of illicit trade and non-regulated trade in arms to many people and States, in particular through the diversion of arms to non-State actors, unauthorized users, often linked to transnational organized crime and to drug trafficking. Also expect that this Treaty could contribute to the prevention of armed conflict, armed violence and violations of international law. At the same time, in the light of the entry into force of the Treaty in December 2014, we invoke the Treaty is applied in a balanced, transparent and objective manner, respecting the sovereign right of all States to ensure their self-defence, in accordance article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Recognize the wish of Mexico to host in 2015 the First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty and to highlight its leadership during the preparatory process for this session, as well as the aspiration of Trinidad and Tobago to be the headquarters of the Secretariat of the said instrument and its intention to host the First Preparatory meeting towards the First Conference of States Parties.

13. With reference to arms with humanitarian impact, we recall with appreciation the Declaration of Central America as an anti-personnel mine-free zone, and take note the Declaration of Maputo+15 adopted at the Third Review Conference of this Treaty in June 2014.

14. Welcome the efforts of Colombia — country that ranks second in the world in the number of new victims caused by the use of these devices — by hosting the Global Conference on the Assistance to Victims and Survivors of Landmines and Other Explosive Remnants of War in the Context of the Disability

Rights and Other areas: Building Bridges between Worlds, in Medellin, Colombia, on 3 and 4 April 2014, which was attended by a large group of people in the region and managed to promote awareness on assistance to the victims, beyond the human rights approach embodied in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

15. Take note of the calling to the fifteenth Meeting of the State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention at the end of 2016, in Santiago, Chile, which reflects the commitment of the States parties to the Convention to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines, to ban their use, to the humanitarian demining of mine areas, to the prevention and awareness programmes for the population and to assist the victims affected by these devices.

16. Support international efforts to reduce the suffering caused by cluster munitions and by their use against civilian populations, in clear violation of international humanitarian law. Likewise we recognize the recent accession of Belize to the Cluster Ammunition Convention and the establishment of Central America as a cluster ammunition free zone during the fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in San José, Costa Rica, in September 2014. In this regard, we take note of the efforts of Costa Rica as President of the fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to reach the figure of 100 States parties towards the first Review Conference of the Convention to be held in September 2015, in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

17. Highlight the important work undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) in the promotion of peace, disarmament and development, including assistance provided to the countries of the region to strengthen national capabilities and apply disarmament measures in various areas.

18. Highlight likewise that these efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons are without prejudice to the priorities accorded to nuclear disarmament and weapons of mass destruction.

Special declaration 19: financing for development

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28-29 January 2015:

Reaffirming that while at national level, the achievement of sustainable development depends largely on the design and effective implementation of economic, social and environmental policies, in line with the national agenda of priorities established by local authorities; at the international level, success depends on the support and commitment of the international community, the possibility of having an adequate political space and an enabling global environment, as well as a pattern of competitive insertion in the global economy;

Reaffirming also that any development process must take into account the different development dimensions, priorities, circumstances, realities and capabilities of countries, rights approach, the multidimensional nature of poverty,

the enhancement of coherence, consistency and coordination of the international monetary, financial and trading systems;

Reiterating that financing for development is crucial for the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing that the preparatory process of the third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, including the regional preparatory to held on 12 and 13 March 2015, at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, shall converge with the elaboration process of the post-2015 development agenda;

Reiterating our strong interest on the establishment of a truly and effective global partnership for development, that incorporates the achievements and lessons learned in the various international conferences on financing for development and the outcome document of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), that integrate all the fundamental issues of the development agenda to be articulated through the third International Conference on Financing for Development;

Recognizing that national States will lead the negotiations of the renewed global partnership for development, encouraging the participation of other actors, according to public policies that represent the interests of all citizens;

Recognizing also the importance of a transparent and inclusive preparatory process based on the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration, including the evaluation of their progress, obstacles and structural constraints for the implementation of their agreements, to boost the process of financing for development and support the implementation of the new development agenda;

Recognizing that an effective strategy on financing for sustainable development will require the mobilization and effective use of new, predictable and additional public and private, national and international financial resources, and emphasizing the central role of the official development assistance to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and the need for developed countries to urgently meet their 0.7 per cent of gross national product for their official development assistance commitment to developing countries;

Stressing the role of triangular cooperation as an innovative resource considered from a dual approach, first as a mean of implementation for implementing the commitments of development and its financing, and, on the other, as an end in itself on the post-2015 development agenda, which compels us to generate increasingly broad, inclusive and fair partnerships;

Agree to:

1. Contribute through a dynamic and unified participation of CELAC countries, to a successful dialogue in the field of cooperation and financing for sustainable development as a fundamental part in the elaboration of the new post-2015 development agenda, aiming that this dialogue incorporates the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation, recognizing their merits, as a core element in achieving a new paradigm of development cooperation.

2. Work towards the establishment of a genuine global partnership for development led by the States, that prioritizes poverty eradication in its multiple dimensions, with effective means of implementation. The notion of means of implementation consists of, among others, a combination of financial resources, development and transfer of technology, as well as capacity-building and preservation of policy space in our countries for the design and implementation of our development strategies, the promotion of an enabling international environment for overcoming development gaps and multilateral, universal trading system, based on rules, open, non-discriminatory, equitable and with a favourable approach to development. These means of implementation must be supported by concrete actions from developed countries, including through quantitative time-bound financial targets, without conditionalities, besides those established for official development assistance, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as stated in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the reform of the economic global governance and the universal scope of the post-2015 development agenda.

3. Urge CELAC member States to participate in the regional preparatory meeting on Financing for Development to be held on 12 and 13 March 2015, at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

4. Promote the establishment of a comprehensive, inclusive, transparent and accountable financing strategy that considers the particular needs and aspirations of all developing countries, including middle-income countries and small islands developing countries.

5. Continue promoting the establishment of a comprehensive Plan of Action for cooperation with middle-income countries. In that regard, we recognize that, despite the achievements of middle-income countries, still remain high rates of poverty and inequality, and that further investment in social services and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce those inequalities. This Plan of Action must be developed, among others, within the scope of the new financial strategy. In this context, official development assistance criteria allocation will be promoted, to be extended to other metrics that go beyond GDP.

6. Express their intention to continue to work jointly in the negotiation process opened on the basis of resolution 68/304 entitled "Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes", adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

7. Promote the advancement in the definition of measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP, including a combination of indicators of income and development demonstrating the reality of each country, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries, with the most possible upgraded data.

8. Promote innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize voluntarily, additional and complementary resources to traditional sources of funding for the implementation of sustainable development programmes in its three dimensions (economical, social and environmental) and against hunger and poverty in developing countries, in accordance to national development priorities.

9. Strengthen CELAC Working Group on International Cooperation to support and coordinate South-South cooperation, noting that it provides a broad

framework for collaboration among countries, as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and great potential to contribute to its progress, welfare and achieving their development priorities and also to redefine and complement forms of international cooperation and global development agenda.

Special declaration 20: international financial architecture: towards a new global economic governance

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015:

Recognizing that the numerous social, humanitarian, financial and environmental crisis that humanity has overtaken in the last decade, constitute a challenge to the international community which requires a restructuring of the financial system and international cooperation under a spirit of partnership, cooperation and global solidarity as never before, developing countries are called to promote proposals and initiatives at the multilateral level that contribute to deal together with these multiple challenges;

Emphasizing that the role of the financial system for development and the international cooperation agenda must be accompanied by a comprehensive and pluralistic vision of development and its dimensions in which the final overcoming the causes of exclusion leads to well-being and good living of the peoples of CELAC member countries;

Reiterating the concern about the lack of compliance with the commitment, by developed countries, to allocate 0.7 per cent of its Gross National Product to official development assistance; coupled with the significant reduction of flows available to international cooperation and the establishment of new sectorial priorities for its allocation;

Reiterating the historic importance and the rescue of the spirit of resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of the United Nations General Assembly that contain the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted at the sixth special session, on 1 May 1974;

Reaffirming, that after 40 years of this global agreement, we are still pending to achieve their main commitment to build a new international inclusive, democratic and fair order, in which international cooperation for development constitute a shared goal and common duty of all countries and that the political, economic and social well-being of present and future generations depends more than ever on cooperation between all members of the international community on the basis of the elimination of the imbalance between developed and developing countries and the respect of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, inter alia, the sovereign equality;

Highlighting in this matter the importance of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development approved in Monterrey in 2002, that contributes to update and to confront in a pragmatic fashion some of the fundamental topics related to the international financial architecture and the construction of an just and equal world financial order;

Taking note that resolution 68 304 of the United Nations General Assembly, which emphasizes that debt sustainability and its efficient management is essential to support the growth and achieve sustainable development in our countries, and recognizes that the sovereign debt crises tend to be expensive and disruptive, particularly for employment and productive investment, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending that particularly affects our poor and vulnerable citizens;

Taking note of the G-77 Santa Cruz declaration entitled "For a new world order for living well";

We agree:

1. Call upon the international community to highlight the importance that all actors involved in the dynamics of finance and development cooperation, honour the commitments made on this matter in various summits, forums and high-level meetings.

2. Contribute through a dynamic and unified participation of CELAC countries to have a successful dialogue on cooperation and financing for sustainable development as a fundamental part of the elaboration process of the new post-2015 development agenda, on the basis of a coherent approach that integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions, so that the dialogue incorporates, as a priority, the provision of new, additional and predictable resources, from developed to developing countries and the effective fulfilment of the previous commitments on official development assistance, including the allocating of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, the principles of effective cooperation, and the strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation.

3. Join efforts as CELAC member countries in the negotiations for the establishment of effective coordination between the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in July 2015, and the elaboration process of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the preparations for its adoption at the Summit to be held in September 2015.

4. Work together in this Conference, to assess progress in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, as well as to identify the obstacles and structural constraints derived from the international economic, commercial and financial system, and the level of compliance of commitments, by developed countries, to advance in the agreements to be reached in the post-2015 development agenda, including the achievement of sustainable development objectives, as well as to achieve the establishment of a transparent and effective follow-up process in order to achieve more and better results.

5. Work together in the Conference in order to ensure a substantive outcome in Addis Ababa that gives a solid scheme of means of implementation to effectively support the new development agenda and to identify concrete results to be obtained in order to raise the political relevance of the Conference.

6. In this sense, we welcome the decision by the Government of Chile and ECLAC to host and organize the regional preparatory meeting on Financing for Development to be held on 12 and 13 March 2015, at ECLAC's headquarters in Santiago, Chile, and commit to identify regional priorities for it possible validation and presentation in the process of debate and negotiation of the Third Conference on Financing for Development.

7. Promote the consolidation and coordination of the different processes being held in multiple multilateral forums and the need to work on reforming the international financial system, and the strengthening of the regional financial architecture, especially regarding the mandate, scope, regulation, transparency, representation and participation of developing countries in the decision making process, governance, responsiveness and development orientation, and encourage to keep celebrating an open, inclusive and transparent dialogue on this subject, that contributes to the achievement of these goals.

8. Commit to work in an inclusive, strengthened and more effective intergovernmental process to follow up the financing for development, taking advantage of the expertise and best practices on the subject in order to benefit from the progress made, examine obstacles and propose recommendations and corrective measures, and supervise the impact of certain international trends and international financial policies that are systematically important to prevent the propagation of economic and financial crisis among countries.

9. Actively promote in the agenda of international cooperation, the review of the criteria for allocation of official development assistance, pleading to take under consideration other indicators, beyond income per capita.

10. Urge the CELAC Working Group on International Cooperation to advance in their work to promote South-South Cooperation, noting that it provides a broad framework for collaboration among countries, as an expression of solidarity between the people and with a great potential to contribute to its progress, well-being and the achievement of their development priorities and thus to complement traditional forms of international cooperation and the agreements to be reached in the post-2015 development agenda.

11. Work together to articulate the regional financial organizations and implementation to promote sustainable development within the international development agenda, in order to facilitate the fight against extreme poverty and inequality, promote progress, well-being and good living standards in member countries. Besides, to asses new innovative and inclusive financing mechanisms and instruments towards of the international financial system, taking into account the agreements reached in Caracas and Havana Action Plans, and the Quito Declaration on the second Meeting of CELAC's Ministers of Finance.

12. Join efforts, as CELAC member countries, so that at the third International Conference on Financing for Development launches a new era of intergovernmental cooperation not only in terms of funding and technical assistance for development, but also in the decision making and setting of international standards for the transfer, technological dissemination, and also correct the shortcomings of the current international system, in order to create a favourable international environment with fair rules that support national efforts.

Special declaration 21: solidarity with States affected by the interests of transnationals and other enterprises

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held on 28 and 29 January 2015, express their solidarity with the Latin American and Caribbean countries, regarding

the disputes with some transnational enterprises that have polluted their territories, ecosystems and communities.

Take note of the First Regional Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean on Businesses and Human Rights, held on 28 and 30 August 2013 in Medellin, Colombia.

Register resolution 26/9 entitled "Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights", adopted in the framework of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations.

Commit their efforts to jointly continue strengthening policies and initiatives that allow for resolving difficulties amongst States and transnational enterprises, according to applicable law in conformance with the law.

Special declaration 22: peace process between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Costa Rica on 28 and 29 January 2015 for the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC),

Express their steadfast support for the peace process in Colombia and welcome the agreements reached by the Government of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army during the talks in Havana.

These agreements on issues that are essential for peacebuilding, resulting in transformations for Colombia, are also bases for peace on the continent.

Nothing could be more important than the definitive end to the longest conflict of the Americas. For this reason, they urge the parties to reach a final agreement as soon as possible so that all efforts can be devoted to the main task: peacebuilding.

They also hope that talks between the Government of Colombia and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional will begin as soon as possible, so as not to miss this historic opportunity to end the conflict and achieve a stable and lasting peace in Colombia.

Special declaration 23: actions between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the United Nations

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and the Caribbean States, gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015,

With the purpose to strengthen joint actions, positions and presence of CELAC within the United Nations;

We decide,

1. To ask the quartet to develop a proposal document with courses of additional actions and alternatives, destined to articulate, potentiate and give the framework to CELAC's actions in the various forums of the United Nations system, which includes legal implications.

2. To submit the referred proposal to consideration of the member States on the course of the first semester of 2015 on the level of National Coordinators, aimed to adopt a decision at this regard in the next Summit.

Special declaration 24: communiqué of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on unilateral actions against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) reiterates its rejection of the application of unilateral coercive measures against international law.

CELAC expresses its concern related to the adoption of a Law by the government of the United States of America that applies unilateral sanctions against governmental employees of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

CELAC reiterates the principles contained in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, agreed at its second Summit, held in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014, which urges all States members of the international community to fully respect the Proclamation in its relations with States members of CELAC, including to commit not to intervene, directly or indirectly, in the internal affairs of any other State and observe the principles of national sovereignty, equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

CELAC welcomes and encourages the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among States as a means to foster the political, economic, and social development of its members. It, therefore, urges States to refrain from any actions, which hinder such dialogue.

Special declaration 25: recovery of cultural property materials of the historical archeological, palaeontological, and artistic heritage of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

The Heads of State and Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, for the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), taking place on 28 and 29 January 2015;

Convinced that the material cultural heritage of our nations constitutes a fundamental pillar of identity and historical roots of our peoples;

Aware that important samples of our material cultural heritage have being illicitly removed our territories;

Decide:

1. Invite interested countries in our region to contribute to the creation of a voluntary registry, starting from the approval of this special declaration, regarding the main material cultural heritage of our Community that has being subtracted and might be in third countries, which possession constitutes an impoverishment of the cultural heritage of our people and their identity.

2. Invite governments of countries with cultural heritage assets of our nations to promote appropriate measures to manage and restore, on request of the State of origin, all cultural asset subtracted illicitly considering the pertinent international instruments.

3. Request the Ministers of Culture of CELAC to discuss the scope of the definition of "cultural property" and the establishment of a regional strategy on the subject of this special declaration in its next sectorial meeting.

Special declaration 26: the political situation in Haiti

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, for the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), that took place on 28 and 29 January 2015;

Considering:

The principles and foundational values of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States;

The prevailing situation of Haiti since 2011 which has resulted, to date, in the postponement of important legislative and municipal elections;

The need to organize free, impartial, transparent and inclusive elections as soon as possible, to preserve and strengthen the constitutional order;

Taking into account:

The efforts deployed in order to overcome the difficulties which have hindered the organization of free, impartial, transparent and inclusive elections to this point;

The agreements achieved between the Executive Branch and important stakeholders playing a role in the crisis;

Considering:

The recent positive developments of the situation in Haiti, especially the formation and ascension to power of a government of consensus, as well as a Provisional Electoral Council inspired in the constitutional provisions;

The intervention of the President of the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency Michel Joseph Martelly, before the plenary meeting of the Summit, the continuous dialogue kept with him, and his commitment to continue efforts for the realization of the aforementioned elections during 2015;

Declare:

Their support to the Constitutional Haitian Authorities and all interested stakeholders committed to the realization at the earliest possible convenience during the present year, of free, impartial, transparent and inclusive elections to preserve and consolidate the progress achieved in the building of democracy and improve the living conditions of citizens and the country's sustainable development.